

13th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing regarding the Governments proposal and possibility of the Nursery re-opening more fully in June and wanted to share with you how we will do that. We have not been closed during this time and have had a number of children accessing the emergency care for keyworkers. The capacity for this is now full.

Firstly, safety is our priority and so with that in mind we will not be able to have all the children back at the same time. We will still have a number of staff unable to work due to health conditions, and this of course affects our staffing capacity further.

We miss the children terribly and would love to welcome them back, but this must be done in a measured and safe way. We must protect the staff, your families and the community. We are carefully considering the impact on wellbeing, and health at every point and realise that the phased return to school is a plan currently and not confirmed by Government. They hope to have it confirmed by the end of May. There are five tests which need to be met and schools will not re-open unless it is safe to do so.

We have been given guidance, from the Government to help manage opening to more children and I want to warn you all that the Nursery will not be as it was before lockdown. Children will not be allowed to mix with their whole class, we will have a limited number of children on site at any time, and staff have to clean everything the children touch after use. Parents will not be allowed on site, drop off and pick up times will be staggered to limit adults standing near each other and the session will be very different to how we operated before. Only one parent will be allowed to drop off or pick up. We also don't recommend using public transport to get to school and suggest walking, cycling or driving only.

Currently the offer to open is only for the children who are moving on to primary school in September so our younger children; 2 year olds and returning rising 4's, won't be allowed to attend in June, this could change by July.

We can also only facilitate up to 2.5 hours for the children as there isn't the space or staff to offer longer hours. We will not be able to offer any extended hours during the phased re-opening time of June and will adjust accordingly as time progresses and if measures are still working to keep everyone safe.

Our proposal is that children will be grouped into a team of up to 15 children in total (as per the guidance) and can have 1 week of nursery at a time with up to two weeks at home, this may be repeated until the end of term-July 21st. This of course is subject to change if infection rate increases or if we have a case within the school itself.



These teams will have to be the same children for the week as the guidance asks for children not to mix with others. Staff will also be the same during the week to ensure safety-this will be the bubble (similar to how other countries are managing their children in schools) The team and times and week that your child will attend will be communicated to you once we know how many children are going return to Nursery. This is of course a parental choice and no child has to return to Nursery.

Green class will not be able to operate in the usual fashion due to the size of the room, and staff availability, therefore the children in Green class would be included within the mainstream space as a part of the team/bubble, and not separately.

The session will be mainly outside and all indoor resources will be limited and must be easy to clean/disinfect. There will be limited contact (we won't be able to adhere to 2 metre social distancing easily as little children don't really understand this) and staff will be wearing a form of PPE to ensure safety with any contact. We will be taking temperatures on entry as we have been doing for the past few weeks for the children currently attending. Children will have to wash hands on entry and before leaving and throughout the session and we recommend they change their clothes when they return home. No book bags or items from home will be permitted on site due to cross contamination.

I realise this may all sound very extreme but I want to reiterate the importance of safety at this challenging time and we are using all of the governments advice to ensure we support the children in the best way we can.

I will be sending out a survey to gather your thoughts and to see if you wish to send your child in to Nursery for June, there is no statutory requirement for children to attend and we fully understand if you choose to keep your child safe at home which is still the best advice.

However please feel free to email me if you would like to discuss this any further.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Esther White

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CHILDREN'S CENTRE NURSERY

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