



NEWSLETTER – EASTER HOLIDAYS

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As mentioned in our previous newsletter we are grateful for all of your support and understanding during the COVID-19 Lockdown.

I just wanted to update you on our situation and future plans. All of which is dependent on Government and Local Authority guidance.

During the closure period we have had reports of the following:

1 family that have been to A&E and have highly likely COVID-19 disease within their household. All members affected. Very ill over a period of 3 days however on the mend!

1 family that a household member was displaying symptoms and tested however negative results. Nevertheless a highly stressful time for this family.

1 staff member that has had direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case they self-isolated and did not appear to display symptoms.

1 staff member that's household displayed symptoms of COVID-19 and then they went on to display symptoms which resulted in 14 days isolation minimum. The staff member is recovering, feeling much better and is returning to duties. Thank you to all the staff that supported this staff member with food parcels, emotional support and connecting via text messaging.

1 staff member reported that their child has displayed symptoms of COVID-19 in a mild form and then has gone on to have similar symptoms.

I have also had my children (twins at 5 year old) display symptoms of COVID-19 in a mild form that has also resulted in myself having symptoms 7 days later than their initial symptoms. (Warm temperature, persistent cough, fever yet cold, shivering feeling, aches etc.) My household are following the guidelines set out to stop the spread, protect the NHS and save lives. We would never want to put any other household at risk!

Therefore, given the high level of potential cases the decision to close the school has been justified to prevent the spread of Covid-19 or any other illnesses.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do



Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

However, this does not mean we are staying closed! In fact, over the two-week period we have been discussing all the different possible and safe ways we can open our provision to you and provide your child with some connections, respite. **(Unless told otherwise we will not be re-starting formal education – the sessions will be thematic, play based sessions with no academic expectations)**

We will not be endeavoring to provide full time education for every child until we have the full staffing structure in place. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the school the risk is too high.

PROVISIONAL OFFER FOR RESPITE

Therefore, our current intention is the following:

We will be creating three staff teams that will all work 1 week on and 2 weeks isolating / working from home for precaution reasons/ health and safety and prevention of spread reasons. This seems to be in line with what some of our local schools are doing.

By having 1/3rd of the staff team available means, we cannot have all of the children on site at one time.

We will be asking parents to request the 'childcare' provision from us on needs and risk assessment basis. **E.g. If you can keep your child at home then you should and adhere to the most current Government guidance.** (This could be updated further during the Easter period)

Therefore, this is our initial plan

- If you do require 'respite' then we would ask you to book sessions in advance. (I am looking at how to develop a booking system) There will have to be a limit on the capacity for each session for health and safety reasons. I would intend to allocate these fairly with parental co-operation and understanding.
- There will also be a parental and child agreement put in place around accessing these sessions – which will include expectations for hygiene routines, social distancing, behaviour on site etc.
- Parents will be called to collect their child if their behaviour is posing a health and safety risk to others and staff. E.g. a child requires physical intervention, is displaying dangerous behaviour e.g. spitting, hurting, damaging property; or there is a continual refusal to follow hygiene standards as advised by PHE for educational settings which are open for children.
- If a child develops or shows symptoms of illness then provision will be refused.
- If the children show symptoms in line with COVID-19 then they will be isolated away from the remaining children and parents are expected to collect immediately. (This is following the most up to date guidelines)
- Every child accessing the provision will need to bring a water bottle, one healthy snack e.g. fruit and a healthy packed lunch. **(no meals will be provided and there is no fruit, snacks on sites at present)**
- For families that live within the 2-mile radius – no transport will be provided.
- **We are exploring whether a transport service is running for this non-essential travel. So will have to update you once we have further information from the LA.**
- **We need parents only to take up this offer if in desperate need! The guidelines from the Government are clear – We need to remain at home, prevent the spread and protect the NHS. (We do not want to risk contaminating different households as we have families that do have underlying health conditions and this is concerning to us.**

I will develop a new parent app survey within the next 24 hours in order to begin looking at the provision further. Please note it could all change with new guidelines everyday. We are really trying but need to protect all of our families and your families too.

Take good care everyone,

Mrs Dodd and the Staff Team