

Tuesday 19th January

Dear Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils

Re: Nursery Provision during Lockdown

As you know, we are currently in the midst of a pandemic with infection rates and deaths higher than they have ever been. As a result, primary schools across the country have been asked to close to all but vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

The government initially said that, where possible, they would like private nurseries and childminders to remain open during lockdown. They have now updated their guidance and asked for school nurseries to try to do the same. In the opinion of our school, and trust leaders, this puts the lives of our families, communities and staff at risk. It also goes against the government's own advice to stay home to stay safe. As Professor Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer) has said, at the end of every contact, there is always a vulnerable person whose life is being put at risk.

Infection rates locally in much of our school catchment area are, at the time of this letter, over 719 per 100,000 population (the average in England is 443). This is significantly higher than they were when school closed for the Christmas break, meaning the risk to our community is now higher than it has ever been throughout the pandemic. We are very pleased and grateful that our parents are following the government advice to keep their children at home wherever possible and know that this is the safest thing for you to do.

We have first-hand experience in our trust of our youngest children not only contracting coronavirus but also passing it onto others, including their families back home. We know many of our families have vulnerable individuals in their households and you rightly want to protect them as much as we can.

Our advice does not change, we continue to strongly advise all parents to keep their children at home if at all possible.

Our first priority is to always keep our pupils, staff and families safe which is why we will continue to encourage you to engage with our home learning, zoom meetings and activities set by our nursery staff. You can access these in the safety of your own home, ensuring that your children continue to learn, but as safely as possible.

We acknowledge and understand the DFE guidance and know that your own situations and needs may change, and if they do, please contact the school office by Friday 22nd January to discuss options we have for supporting you and your nursery child through this difficult and worrying time for us all. If we are not able to accommodate your request, we will be able to offer additional provision at another school within our trust.

Please contact the school office, or send myself or Miss Reynolds a message to discuss possible sessions if this is something you require for your child.

Kind regards

Mrs Kathryn Sugars

Headteacher