

20th April 2020- York Road Nursery School, Pre-School & Yorkies Update

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope that you have all had a good week and managed some kind of break with your families at home. My own family and I have been busy gardening and going on lots of bike rides. I have even learned some new 'lockdown skills' such as tiling and grouting!

I have finally seen my own dad's face on Whatsapp video after several weeks of my poor husband trying to remotely teach him how to press buttons on his 'phone to set up data and learning how to use each button- it was a painful process, but we got through it and now delight in seeing him on video each day!

So, we now have another few weeks ahead of us of more being at home, which of course whilst expected, is still frustrating for those of us who are keen to get back to our previous lives. We open our school doors again today for our families who we were supporting before the Easter break. If your circumstances have changed and you think this may now include your child, please do call the school office- 459127- and talk to us.

As we go into the summer term, this means a very busy time of year. Primarily, this is our term for 'transitions'- that means all the preparation for your children who are leaving us and all the preparation for those joining us in September. Of course this still has to happen, but may be in different ways. Shirley Parker who is one of our teachers, also leads on transition so she will be very busy making contact with all the local schools to begin this process. This includes the Pre-School.

Firstly, I need to make arrangements with some of you to discuss either on the 'phone or via a 'zoom' video call to have your child's next 'ISP review' meeting. This is only for parents who have been meeting with me each term previously. In the first instance I will email you with a proposed date for the next couple of weeks ahead.

If we are supporting you or about to start with your child's application for an Education, Health & Care Plan, then Melissa Jeeves or I will be in touch to gather more information. Please can you get back to us as quickly as possible when we ask you anything for this as we have to follow timelines.

If your child has Special Educational Needs and is due to be moving to a new school this September- please can you email me: head@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk just to confirm their school place that you have accepted so I can make contact with the school. If you are happy to consent to this, please just write that briefly in the email.

As usual, all Reception Class teachers that your child will be going to will speak to their current York Road teacher. If we are back in school by then (about June time) then of course we will invite them in as we usually do and they can see your child too. If we are not back, then the York Road teachers will give an update on the 'phone and complete transition forms.

Please see the information below that came on the Hertfordshire Schools bulletin today- it is helpful for ALL children - not just those with special needs:

"With children and young people out of education settings at the moment, families may be needing a bit of extra help to keep their child's education progressing, or just to keep them entertained. The Local Offer, Hertfordshire's website for families of young people aged 0 -25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), has a resources area where parents and families can find materials and resources they can use to help their child learn key skills. The resources area specifically looks to support those families whose child has an additional need, but it can be used by any family, and may have certain educational activities that can help any pupil to develop a skill they may be struggling with. The resources area includes: • Activity sheets and ideas provided by the Specific Learning Difficulties team, which can help progress in key areas including writing, memory, numbers and spelling • Practical help for children who are struggling with their mental health, either as a result of COVID19 or more generally • Help with explaining COVID-19 to younger children and young people with autism, including social stories and easy read documents • Materials which help young people to develop their independence, including cooking activities • Lots of fun ideas for your children to do independently or as a family at home to encourage them to explore and use their imagination. Find it all at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDresources "

The teachers will begin this week sending your child more learning to get them back in to the swing of things again- please do what you feel is enough for your own child. Remember the priority at the moment is keeping everyone safe and at home.

The Yorkies Daycare practitioners have had to be Furloughed during this process so you sadly won't hear from them for a while until we are all back in school. We are still all keeping in touch and they are all doing fine.

There is a member of the office team in the school office each day if you need to call with any general enquires.

Please keep sending updates and photos on Tapestry to your child's teacher - we love to see them!

Take care, stay safe and we hope to be able to see you soon,

Diane Frainer - Headteacher & Yorkies Manager.