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15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope that you are all well and continuing to stay safe. I wanted to write to you today with an outline of the beginning of our plans to re-open York Road Nursery School & Pre-School in a phased return from the 1st June 2020.

Firstly, thank you for your prompt responses to the survey we sent you. Lesley, in our school office has been busy collating the responses.

If your child does return, please be mindful that York Road provision will be different to how it was in March when we were all here together. Our routines and environment will be very different. It remains the case that the 1st June is the earliest we may begin to open; this date is not 100% guaranteed and may change if the Government make a new decision.

I also need to make a very clear communication to you all that we **cannot guarantee social distancing** with 2, 3, 4- and 5-year olds. This is completely against their nature and while all staff will do their utmost to encourage social distancing and arrange rooms, furniture and have reduced groups sizes to support this, it cannot be enforced.

For now, we are looking at offering a 'week one' and 'week two' timetable for all those children returning. Your child will be on one of those timetables on alternate weeks. For all the children who have been attending York Road during the Lockdown, they will still be offered everyday and will stay in their 'bubble' in a separate room from the other children as they are used to being in contact with each other every day.

Your child will remain in their 'bubble' once we have planned groups and they will stay with this 'bubble' and not mix with the other children. Each group will have an allocated 2 adults, and this should not change (unless staff become unwell and cannot come in to work).

As parents or carers, you will be asked to follow set guidance outside when queuing up to come in to school and will be expected to stand 2 metres apart whilst waiting. Only one adult will be allowed to come in through the blue gates per child. Parents or carers will not be able to enter the school building.

Staff will be required to wear masks gloves and aprons for intimate care, and you may need to try and explain this to your child before they return to school.

Your child must wear a clean set of clothes each day and they should have a shower or bath when they return home each day and their clothes immediately washed.

If your child has symptoms in school, the same government guidelines apply, and they will need to be collected immediately and asked to self-isolate for 7 days.

Access to some toys and resources will be significantly reduced and we will have to store away much of our resources.

Children will be using toilets one at a time and all hand-washing guidance will be implemented.

If your child has been given calpol for any reason in the morning for example for a toothache, then it is imperative that you inform us. Medication like this soon wears off by lunchtime and we will need to know if a child is likely to feel out of sorts. Of course, if your child needs any medicine, then they should be at home with you at this age anyway. Please do not give your child any medicine and then send them in to school if they have any temperature, sore throat or symptoms that may be masked that could be infectious.

If after reading this letter, your decision has changed either way about returning your child to school, please can you let the school office by emailing admin@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk otherwise we will go ahead with our planning based on the numbers we currently have today.

Next week, we will be planning the 'bubble' groups and deciding which children will be on the 'week one' or 'week two' timetables and then the staffing rota to match this. We will then inform you of this by the middle of next week.

We are going to try and plan for both morning sessions and 30 hours provision.

I also need to decide about re-opening Yorkies for the summer holidays and whether we can offer some extended hours before then for those of you who have requested this on your survey.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work on this next phase of re-opening York Road in some capacity. As you can understand this is a very difficult time for everyone and I personally want to be able to open only when I feel it is safe to do so. The week commencing the 1st June will need to be a week for the staff to prepare the environment and put away all the toys and resources that need to be stored. As a result of this we will endeavour to open from the 8th June for the children returning. This should hopefully give them about 3 full alternate weeks before the end of the summer term.

In the meantime, your child's teachers will continue to provide with home learning as they have been, if you wish to do this with your child.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend,

Yours faithfully,

Diane Frainer

Diane Frainer- Headteacher.

