



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Dear Nursery parents,

I hope you are all well and that the children are all managing okay in these unusual circumstances. We are all missing the children and our normal routines greatly and we hope you are managing to access the activities that Miss Carruthers has shared on Google Classroom so far.

I am writing to provide more clarity in regards to our nursery provision during the period of the partial school closures. At the time of the government announcement on Tuesday last week, we made the difficult decision to close the Nursery and open to Key Worker and vulnerable children only. This enabled us to organise our staffing and bubble arrangements to accommodate key worker provision across the school as safely as possible.

Over the last week, we have been reviewing guidance, liaising with the Local Authority, communicating with staff and governors and reflecting on our risk assessments. Unfortunately, taking all of this into consideration, we have made the incredibly difficult decision to continue to keep our nursery provision closed and to only offer places for nursery children who are the children of Key Workers. Throughout this period, we have endeavoured to keep the safety of our staff, pupils and families at the forefront of our decisions. Opening to a wider number of children would mean we are unable to operate safely, especially as we are already operating with reduced staffing. We also feel that it is essential that we are able to offer provision to Key Workers and, opening to increased numbers in Nursery would limit our ability to do so. We operate our Early Years provision as a unit and we are already close to a safe capacity due to the number of Reception and Nursery Key Worker families already accessing the provision.

I fully appreciate that the situation is far from ideal and I do hope we have your understanding in regards to our position. Please also be assured that any children attending Nursery in Key Worker places will be completing the same activities that are being shared with home and children not attending will not be missing out on additional learning. Nursery education has always been non statutory and so staff are very experienced in supporting children with a wide range of early years experiences and providing catch up for those children who need it. Please be assured that you will have our full efforts in helping the children to catch up with any missed learning when they return and we will continue to provide work on Google Classroom.

If you do require a Key Worker place and have not already requested one, please contact the school to discuss your requirements. As I have said, we are close to capacity on some days so we do urge you to only request a place if you have no other alternative. We will have already contacted any parents whose child is entitled to a place because they class within the vulnerable category or if their personal circumstances necessitate a place.

If you have any questions about the current situation or need any assistance with Google Classroom, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey