



Mrs Katarina Bingham  
Head of Centre

82 Lyndhurst Road  
Reading RG30 6UB  
Nursery: 0118 937 5577  
Fax: 0118 937 5679

Website:  
[www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk](http://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk)  
Email: [admin@norcot.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@norcot.reading.sch.uk)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## COVID-19 Week 1



The last few days have been incredibly tough for everyone. To have an emergency situation such as this thrust upon us is unprecedented and, I hope, will be a once in a lifetime experience. We all miss you and struggle not seeing you and your children at Norcot.

The way our centre has coped has been remarkable and it has resulted in a stable and calm atmosphere for those vulnerable children and pupils of critical workers who are still attending. This emergency care will continue for however long the situation remains. My immense gratitude goes to all staff who came to the centre this week, for their professionalism and determination to continue to support our children and their parents under exceptional circumstances.

### Weekly 'keep in touch' calls

I am very grateful to all the staff who are making weekly calls to parents. We want to ensure that you and your child are doing well and offer any support that you might need. We have had really positive feedback so we will continue with the calls until further notice. I know that some one of the staff have also 'chatted' to the children which has been appreciated. Please be aware that these calls are coming up as private.

## Home learning

I really hope that the children have enjoyed the Spring and New Life topic last week (week 1). This week we will be learning about Easter, Easter traditions and the Easter story (week 2). The attached document covers all seven areas of the EYFS curriculum. There are some ideas for learning opportunities and activities that you can do at home to engage with your child. We appreciate that lots of you are working from home, therefore please do not feel that you must complete these activities; we do not want to place additional pressure on our parents!

There are also lots of websites that are offering free resources for parents to use with their children, so please check these out for any extra teaching resources.

## Website - [www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk](http://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk)

We have updated our website and you will find a 'COVID-19 home learning' tab where you can also find some additional ideas. There are tips and video to support the learning and you will be able to navigate directly take to our Facebook page. Therefore you do not need to have an account to access our Facebook 'site'.

## Facebook - Norcot Early Years

I am really proud of all the staff who were 'brave' enough to post videos of themselves reading a story, singing a song or just saying a little message on our Facebook page. I know it was not comfortable for some staff, but the fact that they did shows how committed they are to the children. I know that these posts are hugely appreciated by you and loved by our children. We also hope that they may give you a break, albiet short, as the children will be heopefully entertained when watching the posts!

We appreciate that some of you do not have a Facebook account so if you go to the Norcot website and click on the Facebook icon it will take you directly to our Facebook page without the need for an account. Please remember to like us and leave a comment if you wish.

## Tapestry

We would love to see your photos or videos of what you and your child are doing at home. We would really appreciate it if you could upload any videos or photos of your child's learning (or of your family having fun together!) onto Tapestry. Many thanks.

**Please keep in touch, stay at home and protect our community against COVID-19. Do not hesitate to contact us on Waterside number 0118 937 567, between 8.00 - 4.00, Monday to Friday. We are all here for you and we will support you in any way you need. It is times like this that we come together and support each other - we all belong to one big Norcot family!**

Yours sincerely

*K. Bingham*

Katarina Bingham  
Head of centre