



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
Email: admin@norcot.reading.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Week 2



We are missing you all! We have no real indication how long the centre will remain closed, but we will continue to offer an **emergency care** for vulnerable children and children whose parents are critical workers. The children are in Waterside and we are very proud of how well they have adapted to this unusual situation. I am really grateful to all the staff who continue to come in to the centre and supporting the children and their families. Our gratitude goes to all those critical frontline workers who are contributing to the national effort to fight coronavirus; it was heartening to hear so many people clapping on Thursday at 8p.m.

From next week, **Norcot is a 'hub'** for other nurseries across Reading, therefore we will have children from different settings in our Centre as well as our own children. The centre will continue to be supported by Norcot staff and a member of Senior Management Team will be present at all times. We will continue to be open during the Easter holidays, apart from Good Friday and Easter Monday.

We recognise that some children will be struggling more than others, with the lack of routine and understanding of the current situation due to their young age. On our Norcot website, under COVID-19 section there are support stories you may find useful for young children. They are visual, simple stories written by the national **Emotional Literacy Support** team. These stories help the children understand what coronavirus is, why the centre is closed, why we need to stay at home etc. Please read them to your child if you are able to.

Our dedicated staff are posting some amazing videos on the **Norcot Facebook page**. We really hope that seeing the familiar faces of the key workers will cheer the children up and bring some security, excitement and

happiness. Have fun with your child listening to these stories, learning new songs, trying out some activities or even cooking. These posts will hopefully give you some ideas on how you can support your child's learning at home. Please, do not feel pressured into trying to do everything that is on here - they are suggestions of activities to keep you busy and your mind active - it is not there to make you or your family feel stressed or anxious! We know that many of you are working from home and having children to look after is really challenging. You do not the added pressure of home learning.

We have added a new tab 'COVID-19' on **Norcot website**. You can find all the letters, together with attachments, sent to you since the outbreak of coronavirus. Under home learning, week by the week, we will be adding all the posts from our Facebook page together with the topic plan for all seven areas of the EYFS curriculum. The support stories mentioned earlier are located here as well.

We know how much you appreciate the **weekly calls** from your key workers. The staff will continue to do these calls throughout the Easter holidays. Lots of children are desperate to show their amazing work they have created or the songs they have learnt. Remember to take a photo or a video and upload it on **Tapestry**, where the staff can comment on it. The staff will then guide you on how to further develop your child's learning. Again, please remember do not feel pressured to do it! If you are struggling with some resources such as colouring pencils, crayons, paper etc, we are here to help you, just give us a call. Please find attached next weeks topic together with the planning- we will be learning about frontline critical workers who help us.

As a community we are trying very hard to keep positive. Let's look for positive ways to look after ourselves and each other as we face this crisis together. It is clear that COVID-19 has impacted on everyone's life in a different way, we can't change it but we can change the way we continue to look at our life, with hope, love, joy and respect. This situation will pass and hopefully we will become stronger, better and kinder people. Please find attached the **Active Coping Calendar for April** with 30 actions on how to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together.

Across the NHS, services are adapting the way they deliver care. Please find attached important information about the **health visiting service** during COVID-19.

As always, thank you again for all your support, understanding and encouragement. We have been so touched by the way our Norcot family and Norcot community have pulled together and the way we are all coping. Please remember we are here to try and help and support you and your family in any way we can; just give us a call.

I will continue to write my weekly update letters to ensure that I keep you informed as much as I can. Please stay safe, look after yourself and your family and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely



Katarina Bingham
Head of centre