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Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Week 4



The current Coronavirus pandemic is placing new and unexpected pressures on us all - not least the sudden changes it's brought to everyday family life. Research from a range of agencies show that the stay-at-home and social isolation guidelines are putting huge pressures on family life. We are struggling with concerns around jobs, budgets, health and the welfare of family members whilst children are finding the constraints of suddenly being confined to the house, away from school and friends, a real challenge. To keep us safe and well, a range of partners including the local NHS, local authorities and the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership have produced an easy and accessible guide - '#Coping: Family life during the lockdown'. It features the best and most reliable sources of support and information from national agencies and more local organisations. It's available on <https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/helping-you/coronavirus> This documents can also be found on our website, under COVID-19, a new sub-tab found under Safeguarding.

Admission appeals

The DfE is planning to make regulatory changes to the school admissions appeals process to enable parents to pursue appeals under the current Covid-19 restrictions. The new regulations, which will come into operation on 24 April subject to legislation, will relax some of the current requirements. Check for more details at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for->

[school-places](#) . If you have any concerns about your child's school allocation and would like to appeal, please contact Helen.

Anti-social behaviours

As you might be aware, we have sadly experienced a number of anti-social behaviours at the centre. In Waterside, the garden furniture, a wooden table together with chairs, was stolen. In the nursery, one of the sheds was turned upside down, the contents scattered around and then it was moved to the other side of the car park. Also a piece of polycarbonate roof between Meadowside and Hillside was stolen, but strangely was later returned. We have been working very closely with the police. Norcot is now listed on a police neighbour watch rota. My sincere thank you to one of our parents, who is a police officer, for giving us incredible support throughout. You can read more in Reading Chronicle https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/18386831.tilehurst-nursery-targeted-thieves-coronavirus-lockdown/?fbclid=IwAR0_6mt2AOf0EDniVvC_44DrGSL14zhA80dmHggfFV-3-xZup5WPp-DlyE

We are overwhelmed by the way the parents have supported us during this difficult time. My deepest appreciation and thank you to one of our parents for setting up a Justgiving crowdfunding page which has raised an incredible £775 so far.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/norcotearlyyears/updates/523f3?utm_term=zVZQnyRE&fbclid=IwAR1Esk9EBE6h6qEL75ryw9ju_vK1BbE8JQYxFq4jeWxcpwUu05t7Lpo01ak

Online safety advice

Whilst you learn new ways of supporting your child's education and ways to communicate with their friends and family through different media, I would advise you to read the Government advice regarding keeping children safe on-line. There are simple things to ensure that they are using the internet safely. <http://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Keep in touch weekly calls

In this uncertain time, our togetherness is so important. We believe that knowing that someone is thinking of you and your little one and taking the time to call, really helps when we can't have face to face conversations. Our key workers will continue to make weekly calls to you.

Yours sincerely

K. Bingham

Katarina Bingham
Head of centre