



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)

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### COVID-19 Week 7



Last night, the **Prime Minister** announced some easing off of lockdown. He has unveiled a 'conditional 3-steps plan' to reopen society, allowing people to spend more time outdoors from Wednesday and returning to work if unable to work from home (though trying to avoid public transport to get to and from the workplace). He hoped the next step, 'at the earliest by 1<sup>st</sup> June', would see some primary pupils returning to school. There was no mention of the reopening of nurseries or daycare facilities, but we are hoping that the publication of a detailed document to Parliament tomorrow will provide us with a clearer picture.

As we continue to provide **care for the vulnerable children and the children of critical workers**, we require the staff to wear gloves when serving the food and when assisting the children with personal hygiene. The children regularly wash their hands and are shown how to cough and sneeze into their elbow. The staff regularly clean surfaces throughout the day and sanitize the toys that children chew on. At the end of each day, the cleaner comes in to the centre to ensure standards of cleanliness remains high.

**Thank you** to all the parents who are continuing to maintain the 2m social distancing rule when dropping off and picking up their children. You always ensure that there is only one person in the lobby at any one time and have waited patiently until your child is brought to you. We greatly appreciate you following the guidance we have set up.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have sent in photos of their child/children for our video. It was loved by the staff and made us all quite emotional. We are all missing the children and the families and are really looking forward to seeing you all soon.

The staff have made another **video** in the hope of making children and parents laugh. It may give you a glimpse into the 'secret' lives of staff and can be viewed on our Facebook page and the website.

For the **75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day**, families across the country decorated their homes and gardens in bunting, rainbows and flags, and ensured we could still come together for this momentous occasion despite being in lockdown. Street parties have been held at a distance and many have enjoyed a cream tea in the afternoon on front gardens and driveways. It was lovely seeing the Norcot community taking part. Thank you to all who have uploaded photos of their children showing their amazing decorations, bunting and dancing skills!

For the next two weeks our topic is Butterflies and Insects. Please find attached the planning for Butterflies and Insects week 1 and week 2 together with songs and the **Home Learning** for weeks 8 and 9. We are continuing to post teaching videos, songs and activities on our Norcot Facebook page; they can also be found on the Norcot Early Years website. Please do watch them with your child if you need any inspiration for ideas or if you want to be able to entertain your child for 10 minutes while you have a little rest! Remember, do not put yourself under pressure to do them all. Just have fun and continue to make special memories together.

We thought that you might find it useful to read a virtual first 'surviving lockdown' issue of **Families Thames Valley West magazine** [https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families\\_tvw\\_may\\_june\\_2020](https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_tvw_may_june_2020).

We have already started our **transition process** for the children starting the primary school in September. Our keyworkers and SENDCO have been discussing the individual children and suggesting any support if needed. As soon as we hear about potential visits to school we will let you know.

We have completed **the assessment** for all the children in the centre and identified the areas of the EYFS curriculum which your child needs to focus on. Based on this information, the key workers have compiled action plans which identify activities and learning opportunities. These will be shared with you via the weekly calls from the key workers. The staff will guide you on the next steps for your child in their development. Please continue to upload your photos and videos on Tapestry if you are able to.

If you are struggling to find books to read share with your child, or lack art and craft resources, toys or anything else, please let us know. We are more than happy to see if we can help you and deliver anything that we can to your house. Always remember, you are not alone, we are here for you, just give us a call.

On the personal level, I would like to express my gratitude to you all for your positive emails, calls and messages; they help me to remain positive and remind me that we have a wonderful community at Norcot.

Yours sincerely



Katarina Bingham  
Head of centre