



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

22nd May 2020

Dear parents/ carers,

COVID-19 Week 9 - Update

In preparation for the gradual phased return of the children to our centre, currently planned for 1st June, we have completed a risk assessment, using the government guidelines for implementation of protective measures which were shared with you. Unfortunately, as much as we want to welcome all children with their usual sessions back in to the centre, we are not able to accommodate this under the new Covid-19 government protection measures. Our priority is to ensure that both the children and the staff remain safe and we need to reduce the risk as much as possible.

I would like to **thank all the staff** for their courage in putting themselves forward for coming back to the centre, which reflects their commitment, dedication and professionalism. As you can appreciate, they are concerned for their own safety as well as their own families. We have six members of staff who are shielding and will continue to work from home and five staff who will be working under stringent social distancing rules and therefore not working directly with the children.

Commented [NN(1):

We have managed to offer the sessions to all the children whose parents have requested places through the survey. It took a huge amount of planning to place the children into their 'bubbles'. The bubbles for 3 / 4 year old children go up to max of 8 children; under twos are in a 'bubble' of up to 3 children and over twos are in the 'bubble' of up to four children. You should all have now been informed which 'bubble' your child is in and the arrangements for dropping off, picking up etc. The leader of your child's 'bubble' will be in touch with you next week to introduce themselves and complete a one page profile and discuss your child's individual needs.

As a parent myself, I want to be completely honest with you. If your child has been offered the place, I strongly urge you to carefully consider whether you wish to send your child back to our community. **The centre will NOT be the same.** The children might find staying in their 'bubble' at all times distressing. Having limited toys to play with, different routines, different rooms, different key staff, as well as seeing staff in full PPE may well be upsetting. The children in their 'bubbles' will spend their day in the centre in a kind of virtual cocoon, with no cross-over between bubbles. These micro-groups of children, the 'bubbles', are crucial to minimising the risk as social distancing is not realistic in early years. Please read

the implementation of protective measures very carefully and think what it means for your child and your family.

Here is a picture of what the staff will look like wearing the PPE (personal protective equipment) when assisting the children with their personal care- helping them to wash their hands, going to the toilet or changing their nappies and when administering first aid. It would be a good idea to show it to your children and talk about it. Also in next week's update, I will share with you the photos of the rooms once we finish setting them up.



I know lots of you need to return back to work and we can't wait for your children to return back to the centre, but the hardest part is not only physicaly to keep them safe but to ensure that they are not more anxious by returning too early. I am asking you to prepare your child for the return - the centre will not be the same and the children need to have this explained **before** you send them to us - we can't prepare the them for this - only you can.

I have attached some **social stories** for you to use at home which will help you to prepare your child for their return. The first one will help your child understand that we will be returning back to our nursery whilst the second one will help them to understand their new life in their 'bubble'. The third one is about the importance of personal care. These social stories are very visual and were created using widget. These are particularly good for our very young children and the children with SEND. The staff will continue to use the same social stories in their 'bubbles' once the children are back in our centre.

Once we re-open, we will continue with home learning and posting videos on our Facebook page and website. Please remember to upload your posts on Tapestry so that the staff can write the next steps to help you move your child in their learning. Those families whose children are not attending the centre will continue to receive weekly calls. These might not be done by your key workers.

Please find attached a planning for our next topic Eid al-Fitr. Also attached is Home Learning activities for next week.

We have worked tirelessly to ensure that all children and staff returning to the centre remain safe. I appreciate your understanding and patience through this extremely difficult time.

Please stay safe and do please get in touch with us if you have any concerns and need a chat.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "k. Bingham".

Katarina Bingham
Head of centre