



Mrs Katarina Bingham
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Dear parents/ carers,

COVID-19 Recovery Stage

It is been three weeks since we re-opened and started to welcome more children into our centre. The hard work behind the scene has paid off as everything in the centre is running smoothly. It is so wonderful to have the centre buzzing again, with everyone adhering to the measures implemented. Staff are ensuring that the experiences that the children have are as pleasurable and pleasant as it is possible in the current situation. My sincere **thank you** to you all, as well as to the staff and the children.

Week by week, we are **slowly increasing the number of children** in the centre. The children are keeping in their bubbles, up to maximum of 16, while adhering to the staff: child ratios for Early Years. We are continuously reviewing our **Risk Assessment** to ensure that it is in line with government guidelines and well as Public Health guidelines.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 it has been very hard and **challenging for all of us**. The government has asked us to protect those we love by separating ourselves from them; but we know this has been tough; we must avoid this separation from turning into loneliness. We are hoping to return to as close to normal as possible, for as many people as possible, as fast and fairly as possible, but in a way that is safe. We have all been affected in different ways.

ROC 'Tele-Mentors' is an on-line support & mentoring service designed to help families in the Reading area find a way through the current COVID- 19 crisis. ROC is a National Charity with over 200 community led projects across the UK and extensive experience of working with families. ROC Tele-Mentors is free and offers 10 weeks of close support to families through provision of a dedicated mentor who can help address many of the challenges they may face, such as parenting, home schooling or even just feeling overwhelmed and alone. The mentors offer a listening ear to help families find the best solutions to the problems they may be facing. If you feel that you may benefit from this service, please let Helen, Lisa or myself know so that we can make a referral and organise the support that you need.

We are continuing with the **home learning** and we cover the same topic and activities as we do in the centre. Our topic for the next two weeks is Rainforest. Please find attached planning for the next two weeks together with home learning ideas and a list of songs. Remember to upload any photos or videos on Tapestry. The staff will then identify the steps to

help to move your child's learning forward. Staff are continuing with the weekly calls to those families whose children do not attend the centre.

For those children who are leaving the centre for their primary school, we are carrying out the **transition meetings** virtually or on the phone and staff are discussing the individual children with the Early years team as well as the SENDCo.

We were planning to send out a list of our leavers together with the **primary schools** they are going to in September. Unfortunately, however, we are unable to do so due to GDP (General Data Protection) regulations.

This week and the next week, you will receive your child's **Leavers Report** via email. I would really appreciate it if you could email us a comment so that we can add it to your child's report before we send them to their primary school. We will ensure that your child's key worker reads your comment as I am sure you would like it to be shared with them.

Due to the measures we have had to put in place to ensure the safety of the children, unfortunately we will not be able to hold our **Graduation ceremony** in the centre this year. We believe that this is a very special occasion for the children, so we are planning to create a graduation video for our leavers with a special message from the staff. Next week, you will receive your child's Leavers Certificate. If you would like your child to be a part of this video, I would appreciate it if you could send a photo of your child holding their Leavers Certificate and send it to me at head@norcot.raeding.sch.uk by midday Friday 3rd July 2020. Please note that this video will be shared on our website and our Norcot Facebook page.

The government has issued new guidance regarding **travelling abroad and quarantine**. The government's advice remains that people should not travel abroad unless it is essential. From 8 June there will be new rules in place for those entering the UK. These rules are for both residents and visitors. When these rules are in place, everyone will need to provide their journey and contact details when they travel from/ return to the UK and not be allowed to leave the place they are staying for the first 14 days they are in / return to the UK. If you are planning on going abroad and you are due to return to the centre, I would appreciate it if you could let us now. Thank you.

If your child is unwell and is showing any symptoms of COVID-19 - a new persistent cough, a temperature of 37.6 degrees or experience a loss of smell, please ensure that you self-isolate and arrange for a test by post or visit your nearest testing centre.

My enormous thanks goes to all the staff for their extraordinary efforts in keeping all the children safe and happy. It has been hugely challenging for us all, but we are all determined to make it work. I am very grateful to you all.

Yours sincerely



Katarina Bingham
Head of centre