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Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

IMPORTANT UPDATE



Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 31st October, new national restrictions came into force on Thursday 5th November. To read more about the new national restrictions, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>.

The DfE has today published new guidance for education and childcare settings following the announcement, please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_. We regularly update our Risk Assessment which has been emailed to you earlier this week. It can also be found on our website <https://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk/home/covid-19/risk-assessment/>.

The guidance also clarifies that **clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff and children** should not come into an educational setting. This means that there are staff absent from the Centre, on top of those who are self-isolating. We have a plan in place to manage scenarios of increasing staff absence which we will implement as required. We plan to cover the staff internally rather than using external agencies to minimise contact, however in order for us to be able to do this we appreciate your understanding as this may mean that staff will not always be able to be released for their PPA time, (planning, preparation and assessment) where they do

your child's observations and Tapestry updates, so we apologize if there are less of these or they are put on at a later date.

If your child falls into the clinically extremely vulnerable category and will not be attending the centre, please let us know. If you are unsure whether your child is classified as CEV, please speak to your child's GP or specialist clinician.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not CEV themselves, should still attend the centre.

As a reminder, if you or your child have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) please do not send your child to the Centre, get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until you get a negative result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If anyone in your household exhibits these symptoms, your child should not come to school and self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of the family member's symptoms. Your child must also not attend Centre if they/you are contacted to say that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positively. Please keep us informed should any of these scenarios arise.

If your child gets tested POSITIVE it is crucial that you let me know IMMEDIATELY, including the weekends, holidays and the evenings, head@norcot.reading.sch.uk.

Self-isolation can be a difficult time as a family and emotionally it can feel quite overwhelming. During these times it is really important to allow space for self-care. Our family worker Fiona has produced a Family wellbeing in self-isolation document, please find attached. Elsa is another great resource, it is aimed for school aged children, but the children can access it with parental support. Please visit <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-home-challenge.pdf>.

To support your child's and your family well-being, please click on <https://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk/home/covid-19/safeguarding/>

For home/ remote learning as well as to keep you informed about what's happening in the classrooms, please visit <https://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk/eyfs-curriculum/planning-autumn-2020/remote-home-learning/>

The council has produced translated video and audio messages giving information about Covid-19 and flu vaccinations. Messages in Urdu, Polish, Arabic, Nepalese and English are available on <https://www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk/home/covid-19/translations/> . Also please find document attached.

I am really grateful to our amazing and dedicated staff, to the wonderful children who adjusted to this new normal so well and to the parents for helping us to follow our risk assessment to ensure that we keep our community safe as much as we can.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Katarina Bingham
Head of Centre