



Mrs. K Bingham
Head of Centre
82 Lyndhurst Road
Reading RG30 6UB
Nursery: 0118 937 5577

Website: www.norcotearlyyearscentre.co.uk
Email: admin@norcot.reading.sch.uk

18th December 2020

Dear Norcot community,

What a year 2020 has been!

I am sure you all agree with me when I say our Norcot community has been amazing! Our children, staff, parents and wider community have all been incredible. With so much uncertainty, anxiety and stress, and with all of the significant changes that were introduced that were not necessarily welcomed but we have adapted to, I am feeling a great sense of gratitude and I wanted to share some of that with you.

The children have adapted and engaged brilliantly well and seeing this was wonderful. They had to cope with lots of changes to their routines and have had to learn so many new things. They are a credit to you all.

It is hard to express the appreciation I have of how hard the staff worked throughout this year. The teamwork created at the Centre is just so special, all staff are there for each other and support each other unconditionally. The way the staff reacted and responded to the endless changing situations was outstanding. They had to upskill very quickly, learn new ways of teaching and carry on doing everything they can to keep the continuity of education for our children. Not only that, but they have also carried on doing this with a smile and a great sense of positivity.

The response to the Reverse Advent Calendar shows what an amazing community Norcot Early Years Centre is. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of families and staff and were inundated with donations, which enabled us to make up 23 beautiful hampers to give to our Norcot families that we are supporting or who receive pupil premium funding.

Being a parent myself, I understand the worries and concerns that you will have all had. Uncertainty about how the Centre will change and what impact it will have on the children. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to talk to us and provided us with feedback, we really do appreciate it and it helps us when we are making decisions in the future too.

School leadership is tough at the best of times but Covid has brought us a whole new challenge to work through. Despite this, together with the most amazing, supportive, understanding and dedicated Senior Management Team, it has been a privilege to lead our Centre. It is because of the people, it is because of you, staff, parents, children and our governing body.

COVID-19 UPDATE

From 00:01 on Saturday 19 December we will be under [Tier 3 rules](#). This means you cannot mix indoors, in private gardens or in most outdoor venues, except with your own household or bubble. However, you can meet in a group of up to six from other households in public outdoor spaces, such as parks. People are being asked not to travel from a Tier 3 area into a Tier 2 area unless it is an essential journey such as going to work when you cannot do your job from home. Bars, restaurants and cafés must stay closed, except for delivery or takeaway.

From Wednesday 23 to Sunday 27 December inclusive, the social contact restrictions are being changed for five days only, allowing you to form a [Christmas Bubble](#) made up of people from no more than three households. All other Tier 3 restrictions will still apply, including around hospitality and entertainment, so you still need to follow the [Tier 3 rules](#).

Remember, just because you can meet with up to two other households it does not mean you should, and that Christmas bubbles could impact on what you are allowed to do in the New Year. So please think carefully about how you spend Christmas and remember these important things:

- The smaller the numbers of people meeting, the lower the chance that you will spread coronavirus.
- If you do meet with other households, wash your hands on arrival and avoid hugging and touching where possible.
- Ventilate indoor spaces. Research shows that being in a room with fresh air can reduce the risk of infection from particles by over 70%. Fresh air dilutes the particles, so open windows for short, sharp bursts of 10 to 15 minutes regularly throughout the day or leave windows open a small amount continuously
- Be aware that you can transmit coronavirus even if you feel well - it is possible to have the virus without having any symptoms, and you could have it on your hands and pass it on when you touch people or surfaces.
- Remember the simple Hands, Face, Space rules we must all do to help protect each other – wash your hands regularly, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces, and stay at least 2 metres apart where possible.

- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss of change of smell or taste), please get a test and stay at home. We have a walk-in test centre at Reading University and a Mobile Testing Unit at Prospect Park. Testing will be available over the Christmas period, and booking is essential via the government website at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- You must self-isolate for 10 days (note change from 14 days) if you are a contact of positive COVID-19 case or are returning from higher risk countries which are not on the travel corridor list. You must stay at home for the whole 10 day period and not leave your home for any reason.

I will share a quote that I came across the other day which puts everything in perspective.

‘I thought 2020 would be the year I got everything I wanted.

Now I know 2020 is the year I appreciate everything that I have. ‘

On behalf of all the staff and governors, we wish you a Very Happy Christmas and all the very best in the New Year 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Katarina Bingham
Head of Centre