Dear Parents and Carers

Centre Finances - update

I hope you are well. I am writing to give you an update on the finances of the Centre. At the end of March I wrote to you explaining that at that time because of the pandemic we could potentially be losing up to £200,000 over the coming period (April - August) due to the loss of income from childcare fees. Going forward this significant loss would have a huge impact on the future sustainability of the Centre and the services we provide to our community.

Towards the end of April – and following campaigning and sustained pressure from the sector - the government changed its position and announced that nursery schools (like ours that receive significant income from fees charged to parents) could now apply to participate in the government’s furloughing scheme. We went on to apply to the scheme and following negotiations with Haringey made a request to furlough staff whose roles are funded through fees charged to parents. In common with other local authorities, Haringey have been clear that furloughed staff should receive a full salary. The government’s furlough scheme itself currently covers 80% of staff’s salaries and as a Centre we are making up the other 20%. On Friday 29th May 2020 we were really pleased (and relieved!) to find out that we were successful with our furloughing application.

Now as we move forward with a wider re-opening of the Centre we are beginning to unfurlough staff. This will be a gradual process following the government’s guidance for early years settings limiting the number of children who should be welcoming back and who should be attending a setting at any one time. Until we are able to safely re-open all parts of the Centre some staff will continue to remain furloughed. We assume that Haringey will expect that these staff will be paid a full salary – although we understand that the government’s contribution to the scheme will taper in the coming months as it is wound down.

In my letter of 26th March we asked families who were still receiving a salary as usual to consider donating whatever they could each month to support the centre to stay open for those who needed it the most. We are extremely grateful to those families who have been doing this as this is making a considerable contribution to help us to bridge the gap that exists in our finances. Over the coming months we will need to continue to balance our books as we gradually take in more children and unfurlough more staff.

The Centre will still be very stretched financially and any additional contribution going forward would still be welcome. However we do realise that your circumstances may have changed and that if we are not currently able to meet your full childcare needs you may be incurring addition costs elsewhere so this is purely on a voluntary basis

Thank you for your continued support and understanding

Best wishes

Peter Catling (Headteacher)