Dear parents and carers

28th May 2020

I am writing to give you a further information on the wider opening of the Centre from Monday 8th June 2020.

We are introducing a new way of working for an initial three week period from 8th June to 26th June. The plan is to have 4 bubbles of children on Mondays and Tuesdays (two in Green Room and two in Blue Room) and a further 4 bubble following the same pattern on Thursdays and Fridays. On these days the nursery will be open from 9:00am – 5:00pm. On Wednesdays and Saturdays all the parts of the Centre that have been used will be deep cleaned by our cleaning contractors. The building will therefore not be open on Wednesdays.

In the first instance (and following the government’s Planning Guidance for Early Years Settings which was only published on 26th May 2020) these bubbles will be restricted to approximately 8 children each with two dedicated staff members. The advice is to keep, small consistent groups of children together throughout the day and to keep groups apart from each other. We are currently making physical changes to the layout of the building both inside and out to ensure this happens – dividing rooms and the outdoor spaces. Children will eat their meals and snacks in the spaces in which they are based.

It’s clear that there is greater demand for places than we are currently able to meet safely and so we have used the responses from the survey that we ran earlier in May to plan our initial offer. You will appreciate that this is not an easy thing to manage – and may be the cause of frustration for which we apologise - but that we have had to start from somewhere and we hope you will understand. At the end of the three week period we will review how things are going and at this point plan to widen the offer to more families. We will be writing to families on an individual basis who expressed an interest in their child returning in the Week Beginning 1st June 2020. We are planning the bubbles using our overall knowledge of children and their needs and it will be difficult for us to be flexible with what we are able to offer. In this letter we will also explain in more detail how things will work in practice.

To reduce contact between parents and staff we will be arranging for dropping off and picking up to take place at specific staggered times. Staff will greet families at the door and children will be handed across at this point. Blue Room families will be using the front door, while Green Room families will use the small gate into the Community Garden. Midwives and Health visitors will also be starting to offer appointments from 8th June 2020.

With Best wishes

Peter Catling (Headteacher)