

THE BIRMINGHAM FEDERATION OF MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS

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| <i>Allens Croft Nursery School</i> | <i>Kings Norton Nursery School</i> | <i>Lillian De Lissa Nursery School</i> | <i>Adderley Nursery School</i> |
| <i>Jakeman Nursery School</i> | <i>Selly Oak Nursery School</i> | <i>St Thomas Centre Nursery School</i> | <i>Gracelands Nursery School</i> |
| <i>Shenley Fields Nursery School</i> | <i>Weoley Castle Nursery School</i> | <i>Newtown Nursery School</i> | <i>Highfield Nursery School</i> |

20th May 2020

Update on the Potential to Further Open Our Schools during the COVID19 Pandemic

Dear Parents/ Carers

After collective discussions with all 12 settings that form the Birmingham Federation of Maintained Nursery Schools, we will follow the recent government guidance in order to do what is safe and reasonable in terms of a safe return to school. It is likely that each of our settings will have different approaches in accordance with individual school circumstances, such as staffing, building and classroom size, numbers of entrances and the number of pupils. The schools within the federation have worked together to consider various possible approaches and made decisions based on their local circumstances.

Following the latest guidance from the Department of Education, nursery will have a different look and feel over the coming weeks. Due to the specified groupings and social distancing requirements, our children and staff will need to adapt to a different routine and changes to procedures.

The government are indicating that it may be safe to open schools to more pupils from 1st June 2020. The late and changing guidance however, will prevent us from meeting this timescale and this has not given Birmingham City Council the opportunity to provide us with the necessary Early Years Risk Assessment to date. Please be reassured that we will only offer further places if and when everything is in place to provide the safest environment possible for children, parents and our staff team. Where and when it is safe to increase numbers this will be done gently and progressively, in accordance with the priorities identified by government. **This will not be before Monday 8th June 2020 at the very earliest. Please note that we will continue to provide places to the vulnerable and children of key workers that we are currently accommodating.**

One of the key issues for us has been the need to devise a plan that focuses on sustainability, giving us a stable timetable that allows for forward planning and a platform to increase numbers of pupils where the guidance on group sizes may change. We know that this will not suit the needs of all of our families but hope that you understand that this is a system that gives support to as many of you as possible during testing times.

We would like to thank you for engaging so enthusiastically with our tapestry and social media output that has been taking place, the kind messages of support and

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the patience when solving some of the difficult and complex issues we have had to face over the past two months. We will continue to provide this online content and make regular telephone calls to you, during the next half-term for children and families that are not in school.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do contact us. Thanks again, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all of our community back in to school as soon as it safe to do so.

Please note the contents of the following guidance to parents and carers from the Department of Education and Birmingham City Council:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/618/statement_on_re-opening_of_birmingham_schools

Best wishes

Mandy Cryan

Executive Head Teacher