

20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing with an update on our plans for reopening Kintore Way Nursery School. As you may be aware, there has been a lot of debate about safety in schools. There has been an incredible amount of work taking place behind the scenes and there are a number of challenges to manage.

Thank you very much for completing the survey. We have been assessing all the various risks and are continually identifying new problems to solve. I will send you our risk assessment when it has been finalised so you can understand our plans and the measures we are taking to reduce the risk of children and adults transmitting COVID-19.

Due to the risks around transmission, we have been required to change a great deal of our practice and the nursery will be a very different place for your child. Children will be in 'bubbles' of up to 10 children and with a minimum of 3 staff. It is widely understood that young children cannot socially distance and therefore we will not be expecting the children in the 'bubbles' to socially distance, however the adults and children cannot mix with anyone who is not in their 'bubble.' Staff will be socially distancing from each other.

Children may not be returning to the room they were previously in and they may not be with their teacher or key person. We are doing our best to ensure there are familiar adults to the children where possible. Some resources will no longer be accessible and children will be using resources that are easily cleaned.

There is to be another government announcement on 28th May where a final decision about schools will be made. We are still waiting for the Early Years Guidance from the DFE to be published.

Due to the number of changes needed to be implemented to make the environment as safe as possible, we will be reopening Kintore Way initially to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children who have been attending our childcare provision at Southwark Park Primary School.

The governors are meeting on the 4th June to make a decision on expanding our offer over the following weeks.

The safety of children, their families and our staff is paramount during this unprecedented time and we are doing our best to reopen Kintore Way for more children over the next few weeks.

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca Sherwood
Executive Headteacher

Q: If I choose to keep my child at home will they lose their place?

A: No, your child can stay on our registers and you will not lose your place if you decide to keep them home at this time.

Q: What measures will be put in place to reduce risks of transmission

A: A cleaner will be on site throughout the whole day. Cleaning door handles, light switches, toilets etc. Only washable resources will be used and cleaned after use. Children will be in small 'bubbles' with the same adults and there will be no mixing. Part time children will attend all day Monday and Tuesday or all day Thursday and Friday. A deep clean will take place on a Wednesday and over the weekend to clean the space each 'bubble' uses. Children will be provided with a sandwich lunch and will not sit in big groups around one table. Books will be put away for 6 days after use. Staff and children wear clean clothes every day. Group times will not take place, only staff will be allowed in the building. DFE guidance will be followed. We have a risk assessment that we will share that has additional information regarding this.

Q: Will staff wear PPE?

A: The DFE (Department for Education) states that staff do not need to wear PPE all the time. We are allowing staff to make that choice themselves. PPE will be worn for nappy changing and other intimate care routines.

Q: My child is due to go to reception in September and I am worried that they have missed out on their time at nursery and the reception class may be too formal for them?

A: Schools fully understand that children will be starting reception without having a full year at nursery and schools should plan their curriculum with this in mind, you can always contact the school and ask about their plans. We are working with Southwark's Early Years Team to develop procedures for transitions.

Q: My child might get upset at nursery and need a hug or cuddle. What will happen?

A: We are continuing to support children's emotional needs. Adults are practicing social distancing with each other but are able to support children who are upset.

Q: Can you guarantee my child will be safe?

A: We have a very extensive risk assessment and this aim of this it to reduce risks however we cannot fully eliminate all risks. With the measures we have in place the risk is lowered however risks still remain.

Q: If we decide to stay at home will you still send home learning ideas as my child has really enjoyed this?

A: Yes, some of our staff need to work from home due to shielding and they will continue to send out home learning activities and ideas.