

Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten



19th May 2020

**Proposed Wider Opening of Blackmoor Park Kindergarten 0-3 provision from
1st June 2020
RE: Little Kindi Day Care Provision**

Dear Families,

We hope you all remain safe and well.

The following information is to ensure you have all the correct and relevant information to hand to inform the many critical decisions you will personally have to undertake in the next few weeks.

Last week the government made the decision that from the 1st June all childcare providers can reopen to all children regardless of keyworker status.

We are spending this week and next making preparations for our Kindergarten provision to open on the 1st June for all children who choose to attend. We understand that lots of people will not be ready to return for lots of reasons including feeling it is too early for the children to return on mass.

One of the things we need to think about ready for 1st June is the number of children that might be attending Kindergarten each day so that we can implement the correct social distancing measures and have the right number of staff. Social distancing will be a challenge due to the very young age of our children but we intend to be able to put very careful and clear measures in place.

We already have a list of children who have been attending as keyworkers but we are aware that as workplaces begin to reopen there may be additional families needing to return to Kindergarten. With a view to this please could you complete our online survey/booking form to confirm you will be attending on 1st June, if you do not complete the survey we will presume you do not require a place. www.bpinfant.com/kindisurvey

We need this information by Friday 22nd (this week) to arrange staffing, any responses received after this point may not be able to be accommodated on 1st June due to staffing.

Staffing in Kindergarten provision over the lockdown period has changed as we have endeavoured to stay open and cover our operating costs. Our staff bill alone is over £20,000 per month, the government did make a slight u-turn on furlough and eventually we have been able to furlough most staff members to ensure we are able to bring staff back when children start to return. Kate (Toddler Room Leader) will be in each day alongside Stephen (Mr Ross) who although he is our School Business Manager at Blackmoor, he has in a previous employment been a Childcare Manager at a large primary school and also a Nursery Manager at 80 place private day nursery. Stephen has also been covering

Lyndsey's (Nursery Manager) role supporting Sharon, Kate and Becky so understands the needs of our nursery, children and the running of the provision.

Both Kate and Stephen have been working throughout the Lockdown to ensure the provision continued and is now in a position to welcome back more of our children. Kindi 0-3s provision is also currently being supported by our school Kindi 3+ staff (Mr Penn, Miss Milner, Miss Ami, Miss Nelson) who some of the children will be transitioning to in September and this will be a great start to their transition. As numbers of children increase and we become more stable we will be able to phase our existing Kindergarten 0-3 staff back in from furlough when your fees can again fully support our operating costs.

We are also currently creating a detailed action plan that we will share with you as soon as possible so you know what the Kindergarten's reopening will look like in practice.

Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting group sizes and assigning consistent key adults
- Staggering break times and lunch times sittings
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they **should not** come back to Kindergarten and should continue staying safe at home. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to Kindergarten. Please refer to government guidance.

We will not be pressuring anyone to send their child to Kindergarten since you know your children and personal situation best. Once you have all the information, you will be able to make an informed decision.

If you have any questions then please call or drop into Kindergarten and speak with Stephen or Kate. To call Kindergarten please call 228 8576 and press option 3.

Please do continue to stay in touch with us about how your child is getting on.



Mrs Hitchmough

Headteacher