



Dear all,

I am sorry, as I feel it has been ages since I have been able to catch up with you all! I have been very busy....with Preschool re-opening...After lots of preparation, clearing our new access, reducing resources and having a great tidy up and clean, we re-opened Tuesday! I have to say it was great and although we have only had a tiny amount of children , just 14 in two bubbles over the five days in preschool, it is baby steps to normality.

To give you an idea of how different this we usually have 80 children attending “Breakfast Club and After School Club” over the week, and 54 children attending “Preschool”, each week, in sessions with up to 30 children. Not all of my lovely staff, have been able to come back yet, but there are 6 of us working part time, within the 2 bubbles,

We have been amazed at how well the few children, that we do have back, have adapted. They are so resilient....we have been spending lots of time chatting and getting to know what they understand, about the current pandemic. Their knowledge is phenomenal and when asked “Why do we need to keep washing our hands?” And they answer “ Because of the germs of the Coronavirus,” “ The germs will hurt our Grannie and Grandpa” it is hard not to wipe away a tear, but I also want to commend you as parents for helping children of just 3 and 4 understand what is happening in the world right now! Well done you guys!

Their hand washing would be good enough to go into theatre, and they have been great as we have been very thorough. On the whole the children have just quickly slotted into a new, quieter, preschool, although by day two, they were all tired, and it wasn't just the children! We've done all the usual things, singing, playing, circle time, sharing stories, baking, painting, gardening, collages and it has been great! Also I know for those few parents that have been able to bring their children, it must have been a wrench, to leave them in our hands, so thank you too for “Staying Smart-2M apart!”.



This week we received the first piece of Government Guidance that included information about wrap care, (Breakfast Club and After School Club), whereby we would have to run the club from the school buildings in the same bubble groups the children are in, maintain social



distancing and use separate staff to the ones from the preschool bubbles. Therefore as things stand with small bubbles and the bubbles in school we are not in a position to provide any wrap care, until the guidance changes. I respect that none of you have asked for wrap care, but as you can imagine, this aspect of our provision accounts for the majority of our income, which enables us to employ 10 experienced, trained staff. We have received no indication on what schools or Early Years provision will look like in September, but we will continue to work closely with school to try to support you, in the future, enabling you to work longer hours, whilst adhering to any government guidance when we receive some! I am also in regular contact with Oxfordshire County Council, and they also agree that currently we would be unable to run this aspect of our provision. I hope to work on planning for various models of how school may look and seek information from you as parents as to requirements, however please note, I have no inside information or guidance and plans would be based on speculation on my part! If anyone has any ideas or would like to let me know their thoughts for September I would welcome them, in confidence. It may be you are thinking as you will be working from home, you may not require this sort of provision, your circumstances may have changed, or you may be desperate for this service. This would then give me some idea of the kind of numbers we would be looking at!

I apologise that this letter is long, and I will send a separate letter for families containing lots of links to Health Visitor services, which you may or may not be interested in, so if you're not feel free to ignore the second letter coming!

Take Care All

Ruth x