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Scarborough Road, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3JS

Tel: 01943 462349

Headteacher: Ms H.R. Carpenter • email: info@westgateprimary.co.uk

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers of Nursery children

I am sure you have been following the coverage of COVID-19 regulations applicable to educational settings closely in the last week or so. Up to now, we have treated Nursery in the same way as the rest of school, given that it is fully part of our school and the guidance for schools is clear: **we are only open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers who are unable to stay at home.**

However, at the moment it appears that the Department for Education (DfE) expects that school nursery should be treated differently to the rest of school, and open fully, in line with the regulations for private, voluntary and independent settings. This means I must ask you about your intentions for next week.

Things to consider:

- The proposed opening of Nursery will be subject to any changes in government policy over the coming days.
- COVID-19 thrives on social contact, so it is vital that we all limit social contact as much as possible at the moment, given that there is a material risk that the NHS will be overwhelmed. Attending Nursery will increase your family's social contacts.
- The new variant of the virus is significantly more transmissible than the variant that was in general circulation in our region before Christmas.
- We will not be offering ordinary wraparound care during lockdown, so the hours of nursery available will be 08:45 - 15:15 only.
- If your Nursery child is already accessing critical worker/ vulnerable pupil care, for example including essential wraparound care, or with a sibling (thus limiting the overall risk to your household), you may continue with this arrangement. However, children may not cross bubbles so you may not combine a mixture of Nursery and critical worker care.
- Without the full opening of Nursery, we already have about 40% of our pupils on roll attending school over the course of this week as part of critical worker/ vulnerable pupil care (despite having had to refuse some requests for care partially or fully), and all of our staff except for those who are ill or shielding are in school too.
- We will continue to put in all the additional safety measures that were in place last term to mitigate the risk as much as we are able. You can read the current risk assessment on the school [website](#)- this will updated this week to reflect our new circumstances.

Please be assured that everyone at school understands that caring for your Nursery-aged child at home can be challenging, and the extra work you are putting in while your child is at home is hugely appreciated.

Having considered all of these points, please complete this short [online survey](#) to indicate your plans for next week, **by 17:00 on Wednesday 13th January**. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher