



CORONAVIRUS -COVID-19

17/03/20

Dear Parents,

Following the Government's announcement yesterday that detailed the new measures that are being introduced to manage the spread of the coronavirus; COVID-19 we are writing to reassure you that we will attempt to stay open and provide care and education for your children where possible.

You will be aware that schools are being asked to stay open for the time being and we intend to do so also for as long as we can. However, we envisage our main problem in continuing our services will be in maintaining adequate levels of staff.

Please support us in staying open and maintaining our service to your family by continuing with not entering the setting where possible and following the Government's guidance on infection control. Please do not send sick children into the setting.

If a child becomes ill while in our care we will contact you and ask you to collect them as soon as possible. If you are not in a position to collect your child within a reasonable timeframe then please make a contingency plan that you can adopt during this time.

Pre-School

It is anticipated that restrictions on class sizes in primary schools will be relaxed but there is no indication at the moment that this will be the case for Early Years settings (guidance is changing daily so this could soon change). We normally operate well within required staffing levels so have some ability to cope with staff absence, however staff shortages might mean that we need to turn 2 year old children away as they require a higher ratio of staff to children. Doing this might enable us to maintain appropriate levels of staffing for older pre-school children and prevent the setting from closing.

Out of School / Holiday Club

The legal requirements regarding staff:child ratios for Out of School Care have been considerably relaxed by Ofsted in recent years but Discovery Vine normally work well within these limits in order to provide a good range of activities and experiences for the children who attend our settings.

As with our pre-school provision, we are able to cope with reduced staff absence, however these might have an impact on the range of activities we are able to offer in any one session.

Unfortunately, if staffing levels drop to the extent that we are no longer insured to operate we will have to close. We are insured for the following staff:child ratios for our out of school care -

Children aged 2 years - 1:4

Pre-school Children: (3&4 years) - 1:8

Children aged 5-8 - 1:10

Children aged 8+ - 1:15

In the unfortunate event that we might not have enough staff to open one of our settings we will send a message out through our telephone app. Please use the link below and download the app to your phone -



We will also be posting updates on each setting's individual face book page.

Lynda Garbutt

Jane Shepherd