



Wednesday 4th November

Dear Parents / Carers

You may have heard that we had to take the step to temporarily close Joseph's Nursery last Friday, due to a member of staff having tested positive for Covid19. Although the member of staff in question felt unwell, I'm pleased to report that she is recovering well. As a consequence of this test result, all of the staff and children who had been at nursery at the same time as she had worked are currently having to self-isolate for the required 14 day period of time.

The nursery staff followed procedure and contacted the Public Health England Early Years hotline set up for this situation and were instructed to contact all parents of children who were there to ask them to collect their children from nursery immediately. Everything went smoothly: children were all collected and after a thorough clean up, the staff also commenced their self-isolation.

We thought it would be useful to share this news with you to keep you informed and also to let you know that the chances of this happening in Heather's and Scarcroft Green Nurseries are currently 'highly possible'.

Our current situation at Joseph's is that as a direct result of the instructions and advice we have received from Public Health England requiring that the majority of the Joseph's staff team must self-isolate for a further 11 days, we are left with insufficient staff numbers to be able to operate the nursery in accordance with statutory ratios.

The local authority has confirmed that Two Year Old and Early Years Funding will still be paid for children who cannot attend nursery due to self-isolation.

We have taken the opportunity to review our Operational Risk Assessment. One feature which has been introduced is to ask parents and staff to wear face-coverings during drop-off and pick-up times when a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained, to add in an additional protective measure. You will need to keep your face visible until the door is opened so that nursery staff can see who you are (which isn't always easy now that dark nights are here!) and we would ask that you then keep your face covered until you have left the premises (unless you are exempt). Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation regarding this. A copy of the Risk Assessment will accompany this letter and will also be available on the Latest News page of our website.

Further to Saturdays announcement by the Prime Minister placing the country back in a lockdown situation until 2nd December, at time of writing schools and nurseries are not affected by this and are not required to shut down, other than for the kind of scenario we are currently experiencing at Joseph's Nursery.

We thank you for your continued cooperation in these strange times.

Kind regards

Karen Mawson (CEO on behalf of the Trustees of York Childcare)