



Tuesday 9th February 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

Further to my letter sent on Sunday, this is to confirm that Joseph's Nursery will remain closed until Tuesday 16th February at the earliest. Most of the staff have been instructed not to return to work until Thursday 18th February.

It is possible that we may be able to offer a half day session to some families on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th February, in accordance with guidance issued by the government, outlining which families to prioritise if we are unable to offer our usual service.

The government guidance (which was updated on 4th February) states the following:

Prioritising early years places

If there is a need to prioritise places (for example, where a nursery is oversubscribed, or unable to operate at full capacity), settings should give priority to:

- vulnerable children and children of critical workers
- then 3- and 4-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to reception
- followed by younger age groups

If you feel that your child falls into the first category (ie vulnerable child or you are a critical worker) and want to be considered for one of the limited places available next week, please could you email the Josephs nursery email address by 8.30am on Thursday 11th February.

We will of course need to take into consideration which staff are available to work when making this decision. We will contact you on Friday 12th February if it is likely that we will be offering a part-time place for your child and will confirm any potential offers made on Monday 15th.

We hope to be able to resume our usual service and re-open to all children on Thursday 17th February and will provide a further update on Monday 15th.

At time of writing, although several staff are feeling unwell, thankfully their symptoms all fall within the 'mild' category. Thank you for your messages wishing them a speedy recovery and thank you for your understanding in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Karen Mawson

CEO

On behalf of the Trustees of York Childcare.