



Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

Further to my letter sent on Tuesday, this is to confirm that Joseph's Nursery will need to remain closed until Thursday 18th February at the earliest. More of the staff have tested positive for Covid-19 and have been instructed not to return to work until Monday 22nd February.

It is possible that we may be able to offer a half day session to some families on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th 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

Again, 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 12 noon on Monday 15th 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 Tuesday 16th 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 Wednesday 17th.

Our local authority advisor has contacted us to say that if any families are struggling with childcare due to the current closure, please signpost them to the fis@york.gov.uk

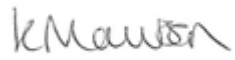
You will be credited for any sessions booked whilst the nursery is temporarily closed and will be issued with a credit note once we have reached the end of the period of closure. We would ask for your patience please over these as there's a lot to coordinate!

We are aware that some of you have now also tested positive for Covid-19. We sincerely hope that any symptoms remain mild and that you are back to good health as soon as possible. Please could you email us to let us know if you or your child have or do test positive so that we can keep Public Health England informed.

Regrettably some of the staff team are quite unwell. We wish them all a speedy recovery too.

We will provide a further update on Monday 15th February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "kMawson". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Karen Mawson

CEO

On behalf of the Trustees of York Childcare.