



Renfrew Street Nursery School



23rd June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Recovery plans for Renfrew Street Nursery

I am writing to give you as much of an update as I can about the current situation with planning for reopening of nursery. I am sorry if there seems to have been a lack of information about what is happening: this is a time of great uncertainty about the safest and most appropriate way to reopen not only education but society generally and the guidance is, almost literally, changing by the day. I know that this last few months has been incredibly difficult for many families for a number of reasons and I hope that your family and friends have kept safe and healthy during this time. I speak for all of the team when I say that we have really missed the children being in nursery and the daily contact with our parents, and my goal is for nursery to get back up and running as soon as the guidance and safety allows.

Over the last 3 months, we have been doing various things to keep in touch with families and offer support: face to face meetings with parents and children outdoors; phone calls to parents, carers and children; home learning packs and online learning through twitter; meetings with school staff to support transition for those going to school; writing end of year reports and discussing these with parents. Just this week, we have been holding individual graduation/leavers celebrations in the nursery garden. This isn't the way we would choose to do things however it is crucial that a meaningful goodbye is had by the children leaving us. I am aware that not all families have experienced this in the same way and I would like to reiterate that we will do the best we can to support you and please try and keep in touch, initially through phoning or email nursery – you will get a response.

Despite all the questions you may have and frustration about the pace of reopening, and reports in the news about the guidance for nurseries and schools, the Scottish Government Guidance for Nursery reopening was only published on 15th June - just over 1 week ago. Since then a draft recovery plan has been created which will be shared as soon as possible. Currently Glasgow City Council (GCC) is ensuring recovery plans meets the local authority aims and is supporting nurseries in this. The main aims of the Scottish Government guidance is to ensure safety in the return to nursery and some of the main requirements are that:

- Children only stay with small groups of up to 8 children at nursery

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- Groups of children have consistent staff and don't mix between groups of children and adults
- Additional cleaning is in place to ensure safety
- Adult (including parent) entry to buildings is very limited
- Strict adherence to hand washing and social distancing between adults in nursery is kept to

The Scottish Government are clear though that physical distancing between children at nursery, and between children and the adults looking after them at nursery, is not necessary and is also not positive or appropriate for young children.

You may now be aware that in today's statement from the Deputy First Minister, the Scottish Government now considers that a return to full school and nursery attendance in August is now preferred, although this depends on a continued low rate of COVID-19 infections in Scotland. As I mentioned before, the situation is changing almost by the day, which is a major reason for the uncertainty that there is currently. The link below is a letter to parents from Maureen McKenna, the council's Executive Director of education:

<https://bit.ly/2Nltq10>

I can assure you that I will do my best to keep you up to date in this fast changing situation. I hope to be able to share the nursery recovery plan with you, and specifically what days I hope to be able to offer your child at nursery once we reopen. But I also believe that there is now a possibility that we may be able to return to a more normal nursery arrangement sooner than I had thought. I will be available at nursery next week (as well as Friday this week) to discuss any of these issues – you will need to book an appointment slot to meet with me (with the link I send separately). I will also aim to keep in touch with any updates for you through group text message, phone call and Twitter. I am annual leave from 6th July to 20th July so I intend to have more information for you before I am off.

Looking ahead to next year, please be assured of my firm commitment, which has never changed, that nursery will continue to offer an inspiring and nurturing learning experience and to work with you to support your child's development on their early learning journey. For those families whose children are soon to go to school, it may not be the last time that we see you however I wish you all the best of luck. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to support your child in their education and growth.

Yours Sincerely



Steve Rivers - Head of Nursery