

20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Further to our letter issued yesterday regarding the forthcoming closure of the Nursery School, we appreciate the letter may have appeared to be direct, however, we were trying to get information out to you, our parents as quickly and effectively as possible. We were as shocked as you given the short notice to make arrangements to effectively support our parents. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to open on the 20th of April, but obviously, we are dependent on guidance from the Government.

We are permitted, as long as staff/child ratios permit, to offer places to children whose parents are classified, within Government "Key worker" guidelines. Places will be offered by utilising the priority banding, again, specified by the Government. If you feel that you are within this categorisation, please see the attached information for your reference.

We are working to deliver a positive support structure to all our parents to and ensure that the children maintain good communication links with their classroom practitioner. This will be achieved hopefully, by utilising an online communication portal with interactive and video functionality. The classroom practitioners will manage the service, on a rota system, directly from the Nursery School. Whilst the management team will continue to work either remotely or at the Nursery School to continue to support the staff and parents. We are, of course, arranging a deep clean throughout the Nursery School to ensure we are prepared for our re-opening, as soon as the Government allows.

We are committed to paying our staff their full salary for as long as we can sustain this, for their security and well-being. We are waiting to be informed of any financial support the Government may give us. We are currently reviewing our position with respect to fees and we wish to reiterate that it is definitely not our objective to make financial gain out of this dire situation we find ourselves in. We wish only to cover our costs and ensure the well-being of our staff and that, when the crisis is over, we are in a position to be up and running as quickly as possible.

I want to give you my personal reassurance that by working diligently with all of the team, I will ensure that the heart and soul of Hopes and Dreams will never change. Together we will get through this challenging and extraordinary time, we are working tirelessly to ensure we will be here for you all and give you as much care and support that we can possibly provide.

Yours faithfully,



Susan Bingham,  
**Founder and Managing Director**

## Key workers

In light of the published guidelines to provide care for a limited number of children whose parents are key workers Hopes and Dreams is asking parents to have a look at the published list of key workers and to contact us if you are meeting the criteria.

**Please e-mail us today your profession, company name and role within the company/organisation and how this is vital to the COVID-19 response if you meet the criteria below. We will then contact you on Monday to inform you of the service we can provide. This will allow us to put structures in place and follow developments regarding travel and any further advice given over the weekend.**

*The advice still is if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, and education settings are asked to close as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.*

Key worker roles as published by the government:

### Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### Education and childcare

This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

### Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

### Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

### Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).



### **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

### **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Please refer to published guidelines:

### **Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining educational provision**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

### **Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?fbclid=IwAR0n9MTIV\\_8g\\_mXhvAoMX21VicEhMZYd1NnCxEDI93aVvAAQXhR615o1Xks](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?fbclid=IwAR0n9MTIV_8g_mXhvAoMX21VicEhMZYd1NnCxEDI93aVvAAQXhR615o1Xks)

Hopes and Dreams is committed to providing a reduced provision for children for key workers from Tuesday, **who are critical to the COVID-19 response.**

As you will appreciate, this is a fast-moving situation and we will have to review the service we can provide daily with the safety of children and staff in mind.