



Arnold Nursery School
and Children's Centre

The Arnold Centre
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Nursery school and children's centre update June 2020.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelming and much valued support at what has proved a very challenging time for us all. Since lock down began we have worked hard to keep staff and children safe whilst trying our very best to support vulnerable families and key workers in the face of a potentially life threatening situation. I pay particular tribute to staff who have continued to attend work, without complaint, enabling us to remain open throughout this crisis to support those at a time of greatest need.

To achieve continued opening we have had to make sacrifices, reducing place numbers, modify opening times and services provision and introducing a raft of comprehensive infection control measures, including; social distancing, minimized staffing, deep clean regimes and lots of carefully "managed" small group and outdoor learning. Our capacity to operate normally, as with everything affected by Covid 19, has been severely compromised but we are still here and developing better coping strategies and procedures every day amidst a turbulent sea of change and uncertainty.

Many of you have applauded our facebook online learning with creative and constantly fresh and fun input for you and your children. Our teaching and outreach and family support staff have worked tirelessly to enable familiar faces to come into your living room and for those all-important relationships between staff and children to be, at least partly, maintained. Thank you so much for all your wonderful online contributions too, as these enable the children to see their friends and classmates which they absolutely love (and staff love them too!).

We have partially extended opening but not fully for safety reasons and are now progressing towards the summer holiday with a primarily full to capacity provision. We are planning an Autumn term beginning in September with as much normality as possible in mind. We have contacted parents to assess need for places in the Autumn and numbers are very healthy. You will be hearing from us very shortly if you have been in contact about securing a place. Transition visits and parent information events will be different than in the past as will become clearer over the coming weeks but all is being addressed as we move forward.

Finally, I apologize for the inevitable disruption our opening patterns will have caused some, but am reassured that you understand the pressures we are all under to get the various balances right, the most important of which is child and staff safety. I very much hope that as September draws nearer we will see a steady reduction in Covid 19 infections, improved treatments, better tracking, tracing and infection management and possibly even a vaccine. In the meantime keep in touch and keep safe.

Warmest wishes

Peter Gerrard
Executive Headteacher

