

Dear Parents of children of St John's Nursery Playgroups

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year and join you in the hope that Covid will soon be a time in history. With the roll out of the immunisation programme we pray that more people will be spared from the virus.

We are sure you will have heard the announcements from the Government on 30 December about the changes to the Tier areas and consequently changes to the reopening of schools in January. Hertsmere is one of the areas where primary schools are initially only allowing children of parents who are critical workers and those children who are vulnerable, to attend.

As we understand it, Early Years settings such as playgroups, childminders and day nurseries 'should continue to allow all children/pupils to attend as normal'. We are therefore going to open as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> for those children who attended last term. However, we understand that not all families will be ready to return their children to playgroup immediately due to concerns over the currently rapid spreading of the new variant of Covid. We also have staff members who may need to stay at home because their children cannot return to school yet due to the staggered starts at primary and secondary schools.

Please can you let us know, as soon as possible and latest 4<sup>th</sup> January, either via response to this email or by texting us, whether your child will be back from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> or whether you are delaying their start. This will help us to put the best possible staffing arrangements in place ready for your children.

#### NEW CHILDREN FROM JANUARY 2021

If your child is due to start with us in the Spring term, we have decided that it would be better if we start the inductions from 18<sup>th</sup> January in line with the advice given to primary schools who (at the moment) have been told to return all children from 18<sup>th</sup> January. If this is a problem for you because you have to return to work, please contact us as we may be able to start some of the new children earlier. We apologise for this change of date and we appreciate that this may be very inconvenient for you, but we want to keep everyone as safe as possible. The exact timings of the inductions will be worked over the next couple of days.

All the arrangements are of course Covid dependent!! Changes can happen overnight, as we saw just before Christmas and again yesterday afternoon. As you know, we already have lots of Covid measures in place including having the children in bubbles with their keyworkers, frequent washing of hands with extra wash stations, sanitising, regular cleaning of toys, equipment and resources, thorough cleaning of surfaces, lots of outdoor play but we do still give a cuddle where needed!!

We will keep you updated as and when relevant information arrives. Please do let us know if you are returning to normal hours from 5<sup>th</sup> January or need an earlier start than 18 January for new children

Regards

Celia Mills  
Manager