

Dear parents/carers,

I trust this email finds you all well and keeping safe. You will by now have seen that the initial easing of lockdown restrictions in England includes allowing nurseries to re-open for all parents, and for all nursery age groups, from Monday 1st June. Between now and the 1st June we remain open for key worker parents only and should you be in this category and are returning to work this week, or imminently, and need to resume your childcare please contact us first - do not just turn up!

We do not yet fully understand what our full reopening will look like and government guidance is arriving literally hour by hour, but what we do know for certain is that we will not be returning to the “old normal” for the foreseeable future, or maybe even at all. You will no doubt have many questions, and in the coming couple of weeks we will do our best to answer them but I wanted to send this email to start a process of discussion between us in the same way I am initiating discussions with my staff on ensuring they are comfortable with the process of returning to work. Only by bringing together the needs of parents and their children, the needs of our practitioner team, and the sustainability of the nursery as a business will we be able to find a new normal that works for us all.

At this point I'd like to make an observation on being “safe”. In what appears to be an increasingly polarised world the word safe has unfortunately become almost binary - things are regarded as either safe, or not safe, and nothing in between - “I'm not going anywhere until it's safe” etc. In the real world this is not the way - few things in life are ever truly only black or white. We fully intend to work through the government guidance and the emerging recommended industry best practice and implement a variety of measures we believe will make Rainbow safer; protecting the children in our care and protecting our staff is our legal and moral duty. But nowhere can ever be 100% “safe” and childcare by its nature is no exception, and so every parent/carer will need to make their own decision about their own children's attendance, and then reassess their decision over time as we progress through this pandemic. We will be as transparent as we can about the risk reduction measures we will be implementing to aid you in making your decision.

For now, we need your help to inform our planning, and in shaping the content of our follow on communications to you. The below google form link (you knew there was going to be one!) will take you only a few seconds to complete but will be immeasurably helpful to us in planning for June 1st. It asks you to place yourself in one of five broad categories as of now, one of which being you simply don't know yet in which case just tell us that. It's not binding, or forever, it's just about telling us where you are at as of today. There is also the optional opportunity to pose us some questions you may have that you want us to address in our next communication. The form is here.....

<https://forms.gle/BVN1fbvznSX8VAny7>

Please complete this as soon as possible. If you answer one thing today, then your employer gets in touch and your situation changes, just complete it again and we will update your situation accordingly.

Thank you for your help, and please bear with us for the next few days as we start to get on top of this, we will be back in touch shortly.

Kind regards,

Karl and Harriet Shields