

# Rosemary Lane Nursery School

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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you once again for your continued support for our wonderful Nursery School throughout this very difficult period of time. I continue to be available in school should anyone have any questions.

I communicated with you all on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, to share with you the decision reached by the full Governing Body to close the school to all but key workers and vulnerable children, for the period of two weeks. Thank you for respecting our decision and supporting the school by keeping your children at home to stay safe.

Following our decision, the government announced another national lockdown and closed all Primary and Secondary Schools from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, taking the decision for Early Years settings to remain open across England.

We recognise our Nursery School provides a vital service for all your children. I can assure you all throughout this week and last, the nursery has been fully staffed and open, to a reduced number of children who fall within the key worker and vulnerable category. We have continued to provide learning activities for all children who have been at home, communicated through the school website.

As Head Teacher of our wonderful school, I have a duty of care to support you all through this lockdown but also to be open and honest. We are all feeling the immense strain of following government guidelines, rules and advice; for a third time. Providing your children with the best education, in a caring and welcoming environment, that supports and develops each individual child in every aspect of their learning, still remains at the heart of what we want.

We have over 80 children who all attend nursery together and are supported by 20 staff. Should every child return, this would mean over 100 different households all mixing together. We know many of our parents are in full time and part time employment, often relying upon grandparents to support with dropping off and collecting from nursery (in childcare bubbles). This, therefore, adds to the household mixing, often putting grandparents who fall within vulnerable groups into a precarious position.

We also know the local infection rate around our school area was 299 cases per 100,000 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and has risen sharply to over 500 cases per 100,000 today. As you can see, the number of cases recorded is almost doubling within a week. This is similar to surrounding areas where Shotton has 538 cases per 100,000 and Wingate has 615 cases per 100,000.

I am presently in consultation with Public Health England, discussing the safety of reopening to a larger number of children next week. There are many complications which need to be

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resolved. When I have certainty over these, I will be telephoning you all individually.

I urge you to take time now to think. Our families are precious, and we all want to protect them from this dangerous virus. A virus that we cannot see and often do not even realise we are carrying. A virus that can lead to long term complications, hospitalisation and in the worst cases death. Please think carefully about your own circumstances, in an area where the infection rates are rapidly rising.

In these challenging times we must all work together as a community, to support one another and keep everyone safe.

Best wishes and stay safe

Jill Jones  
Head Teacher