

## Baylis Court Nursery School

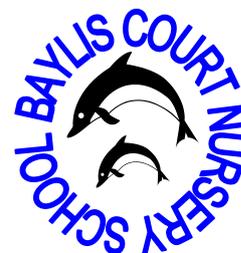
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**Head Teacher: Mr Philip Gregory**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

May I start off by wishing a Happy New Year to you all!

As I am sure everyone is now aware, schools are getting their initial information about Covid-19 restrictions in the same way as everyone else (mainly by watching the news!). This is particularly so for last night the Prime Minister announced the third national lockdown at 8.00pm. In a somewhat mixed message, it was stated that children attending primary and secondary schools would revert to remote learning and early years settings / nurseries would remain open. I say this is confusing, for though we are a nursery and early years setting, we are also a stand alone nursery school – having a head teacher, being state funded, having the same structure as primary and secondary schools and inspected under the same Ofsted framework as those settings.

From the telephone calls we have received today, it is apparent that the message from the government is just as confusing for parents and carers.

Thank you to those of you who responded to my survey request yesterday. I had intended to use the information to gauge the demand for a place at nursery during the current health situation. Of the 53 replies, 62% did not intend or were unsure of sending their child nursery. Over 48% were worried their child would come into contact with the virus and pass it on to other family members.

Then the government announcement was made last night. Consequently, the vast majority of parents and carers who have been in contact with the nursery today have notified us of their intention to keep their child at home given the present public health circumstances.

**The current Covid-19 infection rate for Slough and the two main wards adjacent to the nursery are higher than that for the national average (as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020).**

	Infection rate per hundred thousand as at 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<b>National</b>	487
<b>Slough (overall)</b>	1000.1
<b>Baylis and Stoke Ward</b>	1056.7
<b>Manor Park</b>	892.4

Source: Covid-19 Dashboard

**You are not at risk of losing your child's place. We will be in contact with you with ideas and support for activities for your child during this new national lockdown situation.**

Whilst we await the updated guidance from the Department for Education confirming we are open to all children (as opposed to only children of critical workers and children who are identified as vulnerable), as

far as we are concerned, this means that we continue to work on the basis that we are open for all children until we are told otherwise. As I've stated above, this may change at very short notice.

Having said that, and being aware of the lack of notice that we tend to get when changes are made, it would be really helpful for us to prepare for the possibility that as a nursery school we may have to close to the majority of children again at some point, except children of critical workers and children who are identified as vulnerable.

As with the first lockdown in March 2020, what we do need to consider is how many children might require a place in school under the provisions for 'vulnerable' children or children of 'critical workers'.

By having a sense of numbers, this will help us plan how we would deploy our staff and also what the setup would be. By doing it in this way, the teaching staff will be able to focus on providing the best education possible for all children.

To help decide if you have a child who would be eligible for a place, you can find details of the definitions of 'vulnerable' children here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people> – please note that apart from children who are currently within a social care framework and children with an EHCP (you will know if that is your child) the rest of the examples are at the discretion of the school.

Information about 'critical workers' is found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

**If you meet any of the criteria by following the links above and you would like your child to attend nursery during this new national lockdown, please could you let the nursery know.**

**Likewise, if you know that you will be keeping your child at home, either through not being eligible or because you would choose to do so anyway, then please let us know if you have not done so already.**

This is such a difficult and worrying time for everyone and I wish you and your families keep safe.

Whatever you decide, we will support you to the best of our abilities. If you decide not to bring your child to nursery at this time and until the infection rates decline dramatically, we are still here for you even remotely. You can contact us by telephone 01753 521917 or by email at this address [post@baylis-nursery.slough.sch.uk](mailto:post@baylis-nursery.slough.sch.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you. Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Mr P Gregory

Head Teacher  
Baylis Court Nursery School