

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may well have seen in the news there has been some confusion regarding the opening of nurseries attached to mainstream Primary Schools like ours. Initially, looking at all the guidance, risk assessments and information about the Covid current situation, we made the decision to open the nursery only to key worker and vulnerable children. We made this decision after considering a number of factors, including:

- The overall purpose of the lockdown is to reduce person-to-person contact and therefore to reduce the infection transmission rate of Covid-19.
- We believe the safest place for children to be is at home at this time. Mixing with other children will heighten the risk of infection and should be avoided.
- Our own risk assessment of the environment and consideration for the safety of pupils and staff.
- Opening nursery would result in significant numbers of children and families mixing (We are a 65 place nursery.)
- There is an increased transmission risk created by 65 children all using the outdoor play space and small areas such as toilets
- Social distancing becomes increasingly difficult to implement as the overall numbers of people in the rooms increases. It would also reduce our staffing capacity for the critical worker provision across the school
- It would expose staff and children to many children from numerous households, therefore negating the importance of reducing vectors of transmission.

These reasons haven't changed and listening to the scientific advice, Manchester has yet to reach the peak of transmission during this wave, we still believe the safest place for children is to be at home. However, the most recent guidance indicates that the option to attend nursery should be offered to all children if we are to access our full funding for the following year, so, we are inviting all parents to consider whether you would like your child to return, we will understand that if considering all the current evidence, you decide that this is not the right decision for your family at this time. We will continue to provide our full remote learning provision for the duration of lockdown. As usual, nursery provision will be 5 days a week and normal school time will apply. If you intend to send your child to nursery, please email head@chorltonpark.manchester.sch.uk by 1pm Tuesday 19th January so we can work out staffing for the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Ms S Habershon