

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: BEYA Nursery Schools

I am writing to you to explain the context of what the BEYA Nursery schools are able to offer in light of the national lock down.

At the end of the Autumn Term, **Friday 18th December 2020**, BEYA Schools were prepared and ready to continue with full services for the Spring Term 2021.

On **Thursday 31st December** the Government announced, most schools in London will be closed for the first two weeks of the spring term, with children returning to school on Monday 18th January.

The SLT held an emergency meeting and felt this was the right thing to do .

We liaised with the Chair of Governors and informed the LA of our decision.

The LA replied and stated that the expectation was for early years settings to remain open.

On **Saturday 2nd January 2021**, the Government announced all London Primary Schools will be closed for two weeks, due to rising cases of Covid, but again this excluded nursery schools.

On **Sunday the 3rd January 2021**, I was informed that some staff were unwell due to covid related conditions as well as general sickness and therefore unable to be at work. I also received notification by the majority staff team that they were exercising their contractual right to only be willing to work to support children of keyworkers and vulnerable children until the R number significantly falls and so protecting both the safety of themselves, their family members and the whole community.

This placed us in a position where BEYA schools were able to open safely for those children of critical workers and vulnerable children only.

I informed the governing body and the LA of the situation.

Monday 4th January at 8pm the Prime Minister announced a national lock down, taking place from midnight stating all schools are to be closed with the exception of schools offering services to children of keyworkers and vulnerable children; again, this announcement excluded nursery schools.

Wednesday 6th January an emergency Governing Body meeting was held.

In light of the above, BEYA schools are likely to continue with a service for keyworkers and vulnerable children up until February half term and or until any further relevant advice is provided. Our position to extending our services will be based on what is operationally safe to do so.

I recognise this will place many families in a difficult position, however, I would like for all families to note we are doing as much as we can to support our children and families within our community.

We will be providing a range of online learning experiences for all families who are at home including the following:

- Weekly activity ideas shared on our BEYA website (We will text you the link each Wednesday)
- Regular videos of staff reading stories or singing rhymes via Learning Journals.
- Weekly phone calls or emails from your child's key person.
- Individual home learning ideas and videos for children with additional needs.

Should you have any questions in light of this, please direct all queries directly to me: crudge@beya.org.uk

Please do let me know if there is anything else we can be doing to best support you in light of this national pandemic.

My best wishes,

Caron
Executive Headteacher

BEYA Nursery Schools and Children's Centre