

Dear Parents/Carers of Nursery Children

We have never looked at our Nursery as an add-on but as part of our school community so when it came to creating a risk assessment for school in January, we applied the same principles throughout. We believe then as we do now, supported by local and national statistics, that it is not safe to open any part of the school fully.

We consulted with Public Health and the Local Authority and we decided that it was safest to open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children only. I still believe that this is the correct decision. Indeed the most recent data highlights that the virus spreads far more rapidly in 3-5 years olds than any other children. The government tell us it is not safe to open school fully yet we are expected to open Nursery; the rationale is linked to child care, not safety and I truly believe it is not safe. The government is still promoting the message that if your child can remain at home, they should do, as this is the best advice for everyone during a national lockdown.

We now face a real dilemma as the government are forcing schools to open Nurseries and if we do not funding will be withdrawn.

We have looked at two options:

We close the nursery completely (forever) or we open but with restrictions. After some real soul searching we have decided, very reluctantly, to open on Wednesday.

**Please read carefully.**

We are restricted by the risk assessment on numbers per room and as a result we cannot guarantee your child will be with Mrs Elsey or Miss Carr. In addition we cannot guarantee all the children will be based in the Nursery building. If uptake is high then we will have to use other rooms around the school. Unfortunately these rooms are not set up for Nursery but we will do all we can to make the children and staff comfortable and safe. It is also on a trial basis and if it becomes unworkable then unfortunately we will close.

I apologise for sounding negative and at times political but as a headteacher and manager of a school site in times of a national pandemic, I cannot look staff in the eye and tell them I believe it is safe as I do not believe it is.

Following this information please take the survey here as to your intentions  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NurseryJan>

Yours sincerely

M Mountcastle