

KID EASE NOTICE RE COVID-19 [CORONAVIRUS]
Update Wednesday 20th May 2020

Following my message on the 12th May and subsequent brief questionnaire I have now reviewed your survey responses alongside information from the DFE, PHE and other Government sources.

It is evident there is much apprehension and uncertainty about plans for reopening nurseries, and any anxiety has been intensified by conflicting and ever-changing advice provided by the Government, and in particular, the media. It would appear that nurseries have been 'lumped together' with primary schools and reopening measures have been blurred between the two.

I would like to thank everyone who completed the questionnaire and or contacted me by email over the past few days. I have received so many emails and I am sorry I am not able to reply to them all personally.

It is clear from your replies that the majority of you are anxious; anxious about the unknown elements of the coronavirus pandemic, your children's and families' health, our staff, what policies and procedures we will have in place, and the sometimes conflicting and fluid scientific advice communicated by the Government and media.

The results of the survey confirm this, with very few of you requesting our nurseries reopen on the 1st June. Many of you who have contacted me directly are nervous and have raised concerns about how risks, and indeed the nurseries, will be managed when we do reopen. I have been working on revising our risk assessment policies and procedures, and these will continue to be adapted and updated on a regular basis. All staff will have undertaken additional infection control training before they return to work.

I need to make you aware that the Government's advice for the under 5s, i.e. nurseries, is different to school-aged children and so whatever new procedures we put in place may not be the same as those in primary schools. I will communicate these with you in due course, and certainly before the nurseries reopen.

Having listened to your views, and in conjunction with the ongoing wider uncertainty, I have taken the decision NOT to reopen our nurseries on the 1st of June but will monitor and review our position every 1 to 2 weeks. This will provide additional time to observe the progress of primary schools and other nurseries and monitor the progress of the pandemic generally. I know this decision will disappoint those of you who wanted the nurseries to open on the 1st of June but please be assured this decision hasn't been taken lightly and we will reopen as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

I believe we will receive an update from the Government and scientists on the 28th May and I will contact you again after that announcement, but just to confirm Kid Ease nurseries will not reopen immediately on the 1st June.

Please continue to look after yourselves and I will be in touch a day or so after the Government's briefing on the 28th May with a further update.

Best wishes

Ian Atkey
Managing Director