

20th March 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

From the close of our normal sessions today, the ACE Centre Nursery School, ACE Childcare and ACE Pre-School, in line with all schools and early years settings in England, have closed to the vast majority of children until further notice.

The government has said that as a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. That is why parents are asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and to follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available to them.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
4. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying health conditions.

Schools and settings also have a vital role to play in the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic and so we have been asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The ACE Centre will therefore open for reduced sessions from Monday 23rd March 2020 for the children of key workers and vulnerable children who cannot be safely cared for at home. Those families who are eligible to attend have been notified of their available sessions. We will review on a daily basis the sessions we can offer, based on having enough staff to care for children safely and the needs of eligible children and families.

We believe that we have identified who is eligible and need to use the reduced sessions we can provide but if you think you fall into one of the following categories, please contact us to discuss your needs:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

The detailed information about which jobs fall into each category can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The Nursery School team will keep in touch with all of you via fun newsletters with home learning links full of fun ideas to keep you busy at home.

If you have any questions or concerns at any stage, no matter how big or small, we are here to help at the end of the phone or by e-mail.

We hope that, before too long, we will be welcoming you all back to Nursery School.

With best wishes from everyone at the ACE Centre.