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19 March 2020

Dear Parents

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

I have received the following message from the Secretary of State for Education. This means that all nursery care, wrap around care and after school clubs will be closed on Monday for the foreseeable future for the majority of children.

 Department for Education

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has asked for this message to be passed to all those who work in the education sector

It is clear that education and children's social care settings are increasingly finding it difficult to continue as normal, as illness and self-isolation impacts on staffing levels and pupil attendance. To provide parents, student and staff with the certainty they need we are announcing that schools, colleges and early years settings will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.

Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

From Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks

Acorn Childcare Centre Limited

Registered in England Under Company Number 08500733

Registered Office Address is at Malcolm Sargent Primary School Empingham Road Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 2SR

Pre-existing bookings

All bookings for non-keyworker children will be cancelled without charge from Monday 23 March 2020 until further notice. In the meantime, please be reassured that your place and current sessions have been reserved for you and will re-start again once we are able to fully re-open.

Payments and Outstanding Balances

As a small business, we are also under immense financial pressure at this time but want to be able to continue to support families both now and in the future.

If you have an outstanding balance on your account, can you please settle this balance in full immediately.

The Acorn Childcare Centre is a private limited company which relies upon all income from invoiced sessions in order to continue operating and to meet our overheads, including our staff salaries. We will not take any further bookings with immediate effect for any families that still owe money.

Children of Keyworkers

We are expecting the DfE to be publishing a full list of key worker categories today. The Acorn Childcare Centre will be supporting these families by offering nursery and wrap around care for those children as per our current charging policy.

After the full list of key worker categories has been announced, we will be sending out a form via email for you to complete and return to us as soon as possible. The information provided in these returned forms will enable us to plan for how many children we will be looking after at the childcare centre from next week onwards.

We will also remain open during the Easter break continuing care to these groups as part of the national effort.

If you require this type of care and are not registered, with the Acorn Childcare Centre, please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan AND/OR with an allocated social worker

These vulnerable pupils can attend the Acorn Childcare Centre from Monday 23 March 2020. If you have any queries about this, please email enquiries@acornchildcarecentre.co.uk

This is a very fluid situation so for the latest updates and advice please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Thank you for your ongoing support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Hodgett
Acorn Childcare Centre manager