

Ann Bernadt and Nell Gwynn Federated Nursery Schools



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*Working in Partnership With
SEEDS
Southwark Early Years Education Development in Schools*

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Lynne Cooper, Executive Head Teacher

14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Possible Reopening of Schools in June

I hope you and your family are keeping well. As you may be aware, Nursery and Primary Schools have been asked to welcome children back to School from the 1st June. This will only happen if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including the rate of infection declining. We are making plans ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.

As you can imagine there is a great deal to consider before we can reopen and the safety of the children, staff and parents is my utmost priority.

The advice from the Department of Education is those children aged 3-4 should return first and that the return of children needs to happen gradually. We are facing considerable challenges as large nursery schools with large classrooms and outside play areas. We are currently completing a thorough risk assessment and we may need to make considerable changes to our learning environment. Very young children find it difficult to understand and practice social distancing and often need close reassurance from the adults caring for them. All of the different factors need serious consideration before we can open.

The advice from the Department of Education is that children should be kept in small groups and they are not to mix with other groups of children. This will mean that our numbers may have to be temporarily capped. We also have some staff who have to shield and this may also impact on the number of children who can attend. We are also awaiting further advice from the teachers' and support staffs' unions.

We have prepared an online survey for you to complete, to help us find out how many families need childcare and which families would prefer to stay at home. Links to the survey have been sent out to families where we have your email address via parent hub. It is also available on our websites and Facebook page. We will also be phoning you to discuss your views.

For your information, the Ann Bernadt website is <http://annbernadtnursery.co.uk/> and Nell Gwynn is <http://nellgwynn.southwark.sch.uk/>. We also have a Facebook page called The Federation of Ann Bernadt and Nell Gwynn Nursery Schools which have links to at home learning and resources. If you are unable to access our online resources please let the office know at office@annbernadt.southwark.gov.uk.

There is no pressure for anyone to send their children to school if you do not think it is the right thing to do. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

I hope you understand the challenging circumstances we are facing; we are following the guidance from the Department of Education, Southwark Local Authority and Unions to ensure we can offer a safe service to your child and I will write to you soon with further information. While you are at home with your child, please use this time to teach them to cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbow, blow their nose with a tissue and put the tissue in the bin and to wash their hands for 20 seconds and dry them thoroughly.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Cooper
Executive Head Teacher



The Federation of Ann Bernadt and Nell Gwynn Nursery Schools

