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Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are all well and coping as best you can during this current time.

I just wanted to keep in touch with you all and keep you updated as to where we are, whilst also looking towards the future when restrictions are lifted.

First of all, can I ask that you all consider these few questions and email me back your thoughts:

***Are you happy with our current forms of communication – email, facebook updates, website updates, activities and learning for home and interactive stories?***

***Are there any expected changes to your childcare requirements post Covid-19 you would like to share with us?***

***Is there anything further we can do to support you?***

I have enclosed our revised fee list which we revised again following the current crisis and hope this is more manageable. With regards to the full day cost, please note, this price does allow for the full day of our opening but please do let us know your start and finish time so we can ensure we maintain our ratios. The hourly rate costs only applies to those who attend mornings or afternoons and wish to extend their sessions.

Although the current crisis has hit our sector and will see many settings across the country impacted by not being able to fully furlough all their staff due to what the government deem as double funding through early years entitlement funding, we have managed our finances the best we can whilst remaining open to support critical key workers, covering the salaries of staff we are unable to furlough, covering salaries of those still working for us. Opening has meant we are running at a loss but our Local Authority have supported with a small grant and the government have waived our business rates for the next year. For us, remaining open was the right thing to do. We have supported many families from other settings that have closed and those we are supporting have been extremely grateful for the support we have

given and made their work just that little more manageable physically and emotionally knowing their children are happy, safe and having fun with us here.

As most of you are aware via our regular social media updates, when not caring for children, we have redecorated both inside and outside of the setting, this has included fully gutting and cleaning, minimising resources we no longer deem of high quality and replacing the same with new resources and furniture. We have and are continuing to paint the setting throughout.

Outside we have stained our fencing, re-organised our mud garden and as soon as resources are available, we will rebuild our covered areas and install decking in our main play area. This will allow for further opportunities of learning outside for the children.

It goes without saying that we have continued with our high standards of cleanliness but have also taken the opportunity to undertake a deeper clean whilst we have been quieter. We are unable to fully respect social distancing as this is impossible with young children but we have where possible reduced the amount of 'grouping' activities by the layout of our childcare rooms, our sleep arrangements and with the weather being such a gift over the last six weeks, have managed to enjoy activities outside as much as possible. We encourage hand-washing at every opportunity including on arrival and home time. Fortunately, we were able to purchase 5 litres of hand sanitiser from Healeys Cider Farm when stocks became critically low.

We hope you have enjoyed the regular updates on social media and our website and have found our guidance on home learning and activities fun and helpful. Please do let us know via Tapestry what you have been up to and thank you to those who have done so.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to one of our parents, Kate Edney, who many of you may know is an amazing actress, having appeared on TV, theatre and locally in and around Cornish schools and the Falmouth Maritime Museum. Kate has been helping us bring our 'interactive stories' to life for our children to enjoy whilst at home. Our stories are all based on our logo, Roly, and the amazing adventures he gets up to. Please do encourage the children to get up and join in the interactive story with Kate – the stories are designed to really bring the children's imagination to life, supports language and literacy and of course the exercise is a great start to the day or during the afternoon lull! Here is the link to our YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/d25-Y4xHB1o>

We have been looking after our team by checking in with them weekly and this week will hold our first virtual get together which I am sure will be fun! Most have been furloughed but they all seem to be making the best of their time whilst away from the nursery. Andrea and her partner have been volunteering my making scrubs and face masks for the NHS and other frontline workers. They have also been delivering these and materials across the county.

Another member of our team, Rachel B, has not only brought us in homemade cakes, together with her husband, has been supplying fresh fish to a volunteer cook who is giving up his time to cook for Helston Hospital.

With regards to life returning to normal, we like others, are guided by the government. As soon as we hear what the next step is we will communicate with you again by regularly updating our Facebook page, website and email.

If you could consider the questions above and come back to me, this will help us prepare for the children's return. We are aware that some children may need that extra bit of security from us and the team are fully prepared to support with reassuring cuddles and comforting words and activities. If you have any concerns at all about your child's return, any questions, anything you would like us to further support you with please do not hesitate to let us know asap so that we can prepare anything additional to our normal practice.

We have been very grateful by the warm wishes received by email and social media, thank you!

Please take care of yourselves, we miss the children more than you know, it is so quiet without them here!

Speak soon!

Regards

Rachel and team  
Fit N Fun Kids