

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all safe and well and that you are managing to keep in good spirits despite the pressures of self-isolation.

None of us knows exactly what the next few weeks will bring, but what we can be sure of is that the school's links with you will remain strong and the strength of our community will come to the fore. Our return to school remains uncertain with many schools working hard to prepare a new approach to learning remotely, until guidance from the government allows us to return.

I have been in touch with many local Nursery Heads and owners who are facing their greatest challenge, namely, to ensure that the continuity of their children's education is maintained to a high standard under challenging circumstances. I am also aware of the fact that many Nursery Schools are left with little option other than to temporarily close their doors or to offer only a very basic level of communications merely in the interests of dedication and good will.

However, at Keswick House Nursery, we are in the fortunate position not only to be part of The Roche School but also to be part of a cohesive, proactive and talented Early Years department and we are excited and confident to embrace an achievable, albeit challenging, concept of home learning. We have the necessary systems and expertise in place and we know that we can offer a rich, creative and academic bespoke curriculum for each individual child. It will be the responsibility of our knowledgeable and experienced key teachers to create this bespoke curriculum under the guidance and direction of Mrs Lisa Christou and myself. Key teachers are already working hard over the holidays to plan and design a unique and successful curriculum.

The curriculum will consist of a variety of approaches, ensuring that all ages, abilities and learning styles are catered for. The curriculum will be delivered via Zoom conferencing (live video sessions) and the delivery of lessons via Tapestry (an app which all parents now have access to). Each day the teacher will upload a comprehensive lesson plan ensuring all parents know the aims and objectives. Within the lesson plan the activity will be clearly described either by using a video demonstration or photographs and supporting material. These lessons will be meticulously planned, ensuring that the children will continue to make progress in all seven areas of the curriculum as well as following the individual child's interests and needs.

As the delivery of the 'online curriculum' evolves, the lessons will be adapted to follow the children's needs and interests and key teachers will be in touch with parents daily (as a minimum) to respond to any queries regarding their child's learning and to comment on next steps or areas for development.

Mrs Lisa and I will be available to hold 'Zoom clinics' to support parents if they have any questions or concerns during this period of home-schooling. Zoom protocols and a detailed home learning timetable will be sent out on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

The proprietors, James and Carmen Roche, have applied a fee reduction of 20% across both Roche Nursery Schools which will be in place next term. This reflects the small daily morning element of free-flow which is being replaced by more teacher-guided activities. Parents of eligible 3 and 4 year olds will still receive 15hrs Universal free entitlement and school fees will not increase in September. If any of you will still struggle because your businesses have been affected please could you e-mail the school if you wish to discuss this at [office@therocheschool.com](mailto:office@therocheschool.com)

We are truly confident that the children will be excited and suitably occupied by this bespoke curriculum while we also recognise the important part parents will be playing to work alongside our teachers. We will also continue with the weekly newsletters celebrating children's home achievements and setting family tasks during leisure time.

The Nursery staff and I look forward to developing an even stronger partnership with you and I sincerely hope that we are able to come together before too long to celebrate the achievements of your sons and daughters as many end their time at Keswick House Nursery.

Best wishes

Gabriella Emery

Head of Nursery Schools