

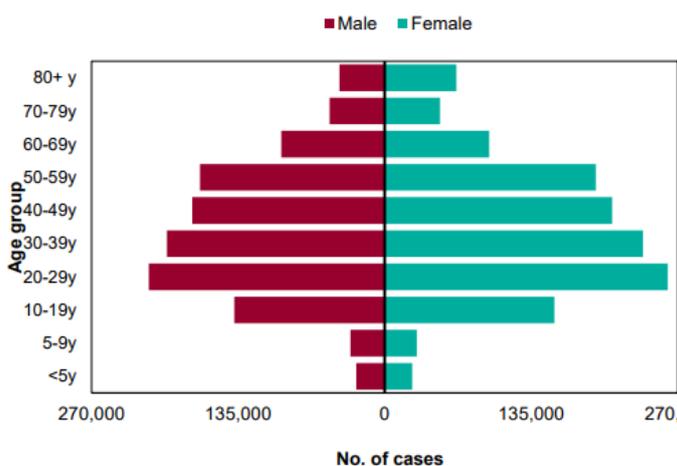
19th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

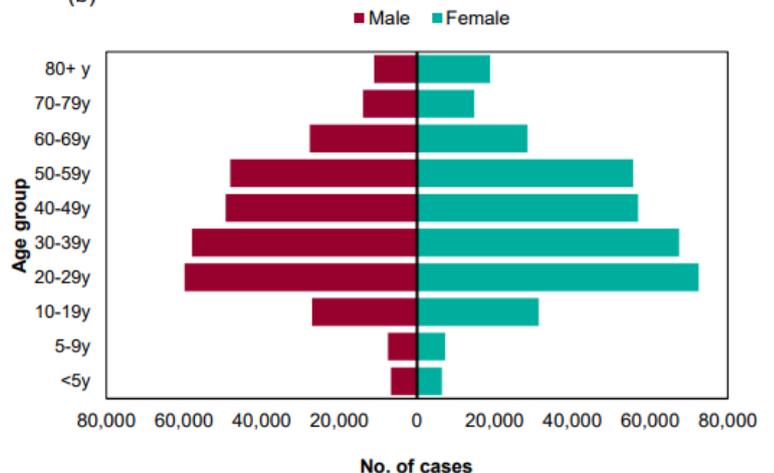
Thank you so much to everyone who completed our survey showing your intentions during the current Coronavirus lockdown. It is a challenging time for all our families, we appreciate the difficult choices you have made, and we want to be as supportive as we can. As a nursery we have successfully implemented many preventative measures to keep our school community safe so far, but the new more transmissible variants that have emerged, and the record high positive daily cases, and deaths, require additional actions to be taken. The Derbyshire Health and Safety team advised that we need to minimise contacts at nursery further. We already use two entrances and exits, with staggered times to reduce the number of families arriving and potentially queueing together. However, the fact that we have a large number of children and staff unavoidably mixing in one bubble is a risk factor, not just for the chain of transmission of Covid-19, but also for providing childcare for our key workers for whom it is essential. Evidence shows us that 0-4s have a similar positive Covid-19 rate to 5-9 year olds, who have been asked by the government to home school for their safety, and that of the staff. Furthermore, under 5s are less likely to be tested for a variety of reasons, so the actual positive Covid-19 rate is most probably higher. Indeed, one of our own children has recently

Weekly National Influenza & COVID-19 Report: week 2 report (up to week 1 data)

(a)



(b)



Age/sex pyramids for laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases tested under Pillars 1 and 2 (a) cumulative number since week 27 (n=2,476,479), and (b) in weeks 53 and 1 (n=668,472)



tested positive, which is a stark reminder of how Covid-19 does affect this age group. They are feeling much better now, but we are fortunate that due to timing our nursery bubble was not affected, especially for our key worker families. Last week 10% of outbreaks at educational settings were at early years' settings, one local.

With this in mind we were not surprised that 80% of parents/carers told us they intended to keep their child at home to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and keep their child, family, the staff and wider community safe. Following the government guidance our setting is open with places available to all children on roll, subject only to any restrictions arising from the impact of coronavirus on the setting. Any new requests for places must come via the survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsgL8e8oNFODYK7H3kWHPOFFu6LrkdxVcQmk76o-qqIQExrA/viewform?usp=sf_link Please note that in accordance with our robust risk assessment, for operational, health and safety reasons, there is a restricted number of children attending, which will be prioritised in this order: 1. Vulnerable children. 2. Key Worker children. 3. Others who wish their child to attend. **The latest campaign led by Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, urges people to "stay at home", "act like you've got the virus" and "only use your nursery place if absolutely necessary"**. Therefore, in the current climate, we would urge parents to consider whether they need to use all of their child's usual nursery hours, to make the setting safer for those attending. Please ring if you can help by reducing your child's nursery hours. We endeavour to support you with remote learning as much as possible with regular contact from your child's key worker. Our Family Liaison Worker, Michelle Lewis, is also here to support you, and Mrs Gray is supporting the children in our language groups. This week we are introducing a weekly group zoom call for the children to keep in touch with their friends. We would welcome other suggestions on how we can support you and your children.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT WE ARE CONSTANTLY ASSESSING THE SITUATION. THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE WOULD LIKE THAN TO HAVE EVERY CHILD BACK IN NURSERY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS WHEN THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SUFFICIENTLY.

The Governors would also like to make parents aware that we still have a Parent Governor vacancy. If you are interested in representing parents on our Governing Body, please let me know before noon on Monday 1st February.

Kind Regards and Keep Safe,

Diane Mottershead

Acting HeadTeacher

