

11thDecember 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, as part of the Scottish Government’s COVID-19 recovery route map, the present national, statutory entitlement for children is 600 hours per session. However, North Lanarkshire Council understands how important the expansion of this provision is to our communities and recognises the significant benefits to families receiving these additional hours, as well as to our local economy and worked hard to provide 1140 hours as soon as possible.

When 1140 hours was rolled out in September, it was with the caveat that should circumstances arise that further impact on the service, this offer may need to be reduced in order for establishments to run safely.

We presently find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic when staff absence can be higher than usual and at very short notice. There is also a lack of cover staff and COVID risk assessment further complicates the matter, as there is reduced flexibility in moving staff between different establishments, even as a short-term measure. Volunteers also continue to be prohibited.

We sent out a proposed contingency plan in November outlining possible arrangements if we found ourselves in this situation. Fortunately, we were able to solve the issues at this time and avoided having to implement that plan.

Due to the implementation of risk assessment to protect staff who are 28 weeks pregnant or more, we now find ourselves short of one part-time member of staff.

To date, North Lanarkshire Council have been unable to fill this vacancy. We will therefore need to implement a ***different*** contingency plan. This will run from Wednesday 16th December until such times as the post is filled.

**CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR MUIRHOUSE NURSERY**

**The service will offer every child a 5 hour slot:**

**8.30am- 1.30pm**

**Lunch will continue to operate as before.**

The gate will open from 1.15pm to allow parents and carers in to pick up children, however if you wish to collect your child before this time, you should continue to collect from the main door.

We completely appreciate that this causes many families a great deal of inconvenience and having to put plans into place at such short notice is a challenge for everyone. We really appreciate your understanding.

We hope that the vacancy will be filled soon and allow the service to return to normal at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Matthews

Head Teacher