Hop, Skip and Jump Nursery

A Letter To Our Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all so much for your support and kindness over the past months; and many of you have been uploading wonderful pictures of yourselves and your children since the nursery closed its doors back in March, which have been so lovely to look at. They have brightened up our lockdown, and we cannot wait to welcome the children back!

I hope you and your families are all happy and healthy, and your little ones are well in the current circumstances. So much has happened in the past few months, and we at Hop Skip and Jump are looking forward to welcoming our new Pre and Ante-Pre children to nursery – we have missed you all very much! A number of questions have been raised regarding what exactly will be happening when the nursery re-opens, plus loose ends to tie up from last term. I hope this letter will provide you with answers, plus a little extra information.

It has been a difficult road for all of us, and I am pleased to announce that we will be re-opening on **Tuesday 12th August** for our 2-3 and 3-5 year olds as we had hoped to do. Unfortunately, we regret that due to the most recent Scottish Government announcement, the nursery is no longer able to provide the full 1140 funded hours for all children that we offered in our letters to you. We had hoped this would go ahead, but sadly it is no longer possible.

As before the nursery closure, children who were entitled to the full 1140 funded hours in August 2019 will still be able to receive these hours; however, children who do not live within the required postcode area can only be offered 600 funded hours. Please check your postcodes on the Moray Council website to find out if your postcode is eligible (please note: only postcodes that were eligible in August 2019 can receive the full 1140 hours). We will do our utmost to help you with your childcare needs, including extra hours if possible; unfortunately extra hours will not be funded and will be invoiced. Please do contact me with any concerns or worries.

Our session opening times will be as follows:

**600 Funded Hours – Monday to Friday**

Morning Session: 08.50 – 12.00

Afternoon Session: 12.00 – 15.10

**1140 Funded Hours – Monday to Friday**

09.00 – 15.00

Nursery Reunion

Nobody could be more gutted than us that the nursery term ended so abruptly in March, without being able to acknowledge the tremendous step many of the pre-school children are taking on their first steps to school. We have received many enquiries as to what we would do in place of a graduation. To this end, we are determined that we will mark the occasion with a **“Nursery Reunion” party**! This will either take place out of doors, or depending on the weather, the hall will be hired on an August date to be determined, where we will invite our nursery children, plus this year’s leavers back to nursery for party food, games, a nursery token, and a chance to say hello to their nursery friends once again. It will also be a chance for staff, parents and children to say goodbye to one another properly. We hope very much that as many of you can return as possible; with the further easing of restrictions, our plans will improve! Please contact me with any ideas or concerns at hopskipjumpforres@hotmail.com.

Nursery Fees

Before the nursery closures, a number of parent/carers kindly paid for their nursery fees upfront for March and April. Upon producing a receipt, we are happy to refund these amounts to your accounts. Please contact the office via email **(hopskipjumpforres@hotmail.com)** to arrange your refund. Once again, we apologise for the circumstances that left us unable to provide nursery care as normal.

New Policies and Procedures

When the nursery re-opens, we will be adopting new policies to deal with the “new normal” and protect the health and wellbeing of parents, staff and the children in our care. The Scottish Government has recently announced that children may mix with one another in nursery, and our re-opening plans reflect this, as the social development and friendships that the nursery children experience in the setting are of the utmost importance to us. These policies will include:

* one-way entrance and exit systems, clearly marked to keep walkways clear
* remote forehead temperature taken upon entry
* increased outdoor play
* frequent handwashing and regular frequent cleaning/disinfecting of surfaces and resources
* the staff wearing suitable PPE should the situation call for it, including aprons and gloves
* updated Emergency Contacts to ensure that we are always able to contact you / your selected contact in case of health emergencies

A “Parent’s Re-Opening Handbook” is in the process of being written that outlines these measures in greater detail. Please do contact me at hopskipjumpforres@hotmail.com with any questions or queries; I am here to set your mind at rest, and no question is too small.

 I look forward to hearing from you all very soon.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Carrie-Ann Campbell

(Manager)

Please note that the Scottish Government instructions are ongoing, and some of these policies may change. We take our responsibilities as carers very seriously, and we hope to stick to any restrictions while also preserving the spirit of nursery, where the children are free to play, learn and grow.