

Dear Parents and Carers

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

I hope that this email finds you in good spirits as we come to the end of what has been a challenging week for all concerned.

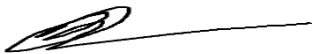
I am writing to inform you that yesterday the Government issued new guidance in relation to the opening of early years settings. The guidance states that early years provision should continue to remain open and should continue to allow all children to attend for their usual timetabled hours. This includes early years registered nurseries and childminders, maintained nursery schools, as well as nursery classes in schools and other pre-reception provision on school sites. Only vulnerable children and children of critical workers should attend on-site reception classes.

As a direct response to the above guidance, I have asked that all Waterton academies open their nurseries to all children. Given the lateness of the guidance, I have requested that reopening takes place no earlier than Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of January. I am aware that some schools may have to delay opening further due to staff shortages. Schools will be contacting parents and carers on Monday to confirm arrangements and therefore there is no need to contact them.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that children should only be attending nursery if there is absolutely no other alternative for your children to be cared for at home, or remain at home safely i.e. there are no other adults who are at home, or who can work from home as is now being actively encouraged nationally.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support, and please take care and stay safe.

Yours Sincerely



Mr D Dickinson OBE  
CEO  
Waterton Academy Trust