

25th March 2020



Dear Parents and Carers of Candystripe

Firstly, I would like to say once again that I hope you are all keeping well and safe through what is a very difficult time for all of us. The landscape is changing constantly, and I want to assure you we have now planned forward to support as much as we can during this very uncertain time.

We continue to help as many key worker children and have done so since Monday. We are changing our service very slightly in line with Government guidelines and company policy. I have listed changes taking place from Monday and the reasons for doing so.

From Monday 30th March we will no longer be using minibuses to transport children. This limits the schools we can work with and I understand this can add further stress to parents and carers. The reasons for this are with regard to social distancing rules and guidelines and it is not deemed safe to carry this part of our service on.

We will remain open for those key worker parents needing childcare from school which are walking distance from the site. At present this is St Matthews and Chapel Allerton who already have walking bus protocols in place.

With regards to playscheme in the holidays we will offer some support on a scaled down basis. We have to remain in line with ratios of staff and with more and more staff choosing to isolate it may mean we cannot provide a service. I will update you if this is the case in due course. I do have to highlight that no staff have symptoms at the moment and both staff and children are being checked regularly for their temperatures each day. They are checked on arrival and during their time in our care. We recommend parents/carers check their child/children's temperatures before coming to the site. Staff can refuse care if a child's temperature is 38 degrees or more.

For details regarding our new protocols for safeguarding please speak to Lesley or a member of the team on site who will show you the policies.

So if you need our help or have a question for us please email janette@candystripeinc.co.uk or call 0113 268 9443 option 2.

All staff have been amazing overall. We continue to identify at the beginning of the week those staff more vulnerable and isolations will take place as and when required; there are no symptoms from any staff of the virus.

My staff are ready, the site is safe, there is a full time cleaner in place and plenty for the kids to get focussed on all with social distancing rules in place. Some activities are stopped including baking, painting and any contact games. Also, we will still have our FA accredited sports coach on site some days to keep them activated and energy expended.

As a community we can get through this. People first and no waste is my priority during these times. What I mean is no matter what if closing our doors keeps people safe that is what I am willing to do, but if staying open and sticking together safely works then that is what we intend to do. Our cook Sharon is cooking up a storm and there will be no waste as we will deliver any extra out into the community. If you know of someone in need please email me.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on anna@candystripeinc.co.uk or 07720 053917. I am on isolation as I am currently going through chemotherapy! But I am still leading the team and they are doing a fabulous job.

I will keep our website homepage up to date with any changes and send emails and texts when changes are made. Sorry if inundated and check your spam folders for emails.

Look after yourselves and if we keep movement to a minimum and look out for one another we will get through these times and come out stronger.

Kind regards

Anna

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