

The WheatPatch Club
The Pavilion
The Avenue
Patchway
Bristol
BS34 6BD

Tel: 07780 660145
e-mail: Wheatpatch@outlook.com

1st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The WheatPatch club is currently facing an uncertain period due to the indirect impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have always endeavoured to keep our charges for childcare to a minimum and, as such operate as a 'not for profit' organisation, without cash reserves to keep the club running if costs exceed income for a prolonged period.

Since the start of the current school year we have been running at a loss, as there have been many fewer families using our service. To put this in context, we currently have just 20 children registered with us for this school year, last year we had over 70. We believe this is due, in part, to the number of parents and carers working from home and being able to manage school runs themselves.

Our primary costs are in Staff Pay, which although based on national minimum wage cannot be sufficiently reduced to compensate for lost income if we are to maintain minimum levels to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. The preparation for reopening in September, in provision of PPE for our staff and personal resources for each child, has increased our non-staffing costs which we have otherwise been working to reduce through reduction in administration costs and, with support from the Parish Council, rental for the pavilion.

Throughout shut-down our staff have been paid under the Government job retention scheme, unfortunately the replacement scheme announced by the Chancellor does not offer any benefit to the club, as we would need to pay a minimum percentage of wages to all staff, even if not working their full hours

Before making any firm decision on our future operation we would like to gauge future demand. We therefore ask if you could please let us know if you are planning to use our service in the future, and from which date you would do so. We appreciate this may be different for each family depending on their circumstance.

At present, we will remain open until the start of the upcoming half-term and will honour any bookings up to that time. Operating beyond then will depend on a minimum level of bookings to ensure our operation is financially sustainable.

Yours Sincerely

Bill Fry
For the WheatPatch club management committee.