

King Edwin Primary School

Head Teacher Mr Callaghan-Wetton
Fourth Avenue, Edwinstowe, Notts, NG21 9NS
Tel: (01623) 822111 Fax: (01623) 825707
E Mail: office@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk
Website: www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk



Sunday 12th December 2020

Closure of Sherwood Childcare Provision

Dear parents and carers,

After considerable thought and consideration, it is with regret that our schools relationship with Sherwood Childcare will now end with immediate effect from January 1st 2021.

It was never my intention to share some of the concerns we have held around the provision and development of Sherwood Childcare in the past 18 months or so. However, it is understood that Mrs Steifan has shared such information with her customers in a recent communication and I will therefore share our view of events.

I can confirm that we have previously asked for improvements to be made at Sherwood Childcare in line with the high quality that is expected at King Edwin Primary School. We feel that any provision operating from our school site must be inextricably linked with our school values, ethos and indeed our desire to offer the very best for all children in our care. Sadly, despite the support that we have given from both a personal and financial perspective, we have not observed the appropriate improvements required to satisfy our requests.

I have a duty of care to all children in my school regardless of the time of day or legal obligations laid out by Ofsted. It was brought to my attention that there were irregularities in registers and potential issues in another setting operated by Sherwood Childcare. This information, alongside the fact that there is still no website and there is very limited communication procedures in place at the provision, leads me to conclude that now is the time to end our relationship.

All bookings made with Sherwood Childcare for next week (Monday 14th - Friday 18th Dec 2020) will be honoured. We will not be charging any parents for this provision however, we will not be taking new bookings until January.

We have instructed Limetrees Childcare to take over the provision as soon as possible. This was originally scheduled for February 2021 however, after Sherwood Childcare expressed no desire to continue to that point, we have been forced to fast track our new provision.

It is already a challenging time due to the COVID pandemic and this situation has put myself in a particularly difficult position, however we cannot possibly see our families struggle with childcare at such short notice. We have devised a plan to ensure wraparound care continues for the foreseeable future until we can officially welcome Limetree Childcare as our new provider. Parents should be reassured that we will do all that we can to support families with their wraparound care needs.

Limetrees Childcare <https://thelimetrees.co.uk/> provides childcare through nurseries and clubs with an outstanding Ofsted track record. I have previously worked with this organisation and have full confidence that they can bring high quality care and provision to our school. We have already set out our mutually agreed view that we will hold them to account for the provision that they offer and they will also expect that our school provides the expected level of communication and support to help all families receive the best possible wraparound care.

Employees of Sherwood Childcare will receive support and hopefully they will continue to work with the new provider in 2021. We wish to thank Mrs Steifen and her staff for the years of provision that she has delivered at our school to date.

We will be writing to parents with further information regarding future arrangements as soon as we have it. Rest assured that the new provision will match our schools expectations and that parents will be extremely happy with the level of care provided as a wraparound and holiday club provision.

Kind regards,
Mr Callaghan-Wetton

