



Waterthorpe Kid's Club,
C/o Waterthorpe NI School,
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Telephone: 2473123 ~ Sue Moore (Club Leader)
& Kezia Willis (Deputy)

0114 2484943 ~ Helen Stokes (Committee Chair)
May 4th 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kid's Club Committee have been working closely with Waterthorpe and Emmanuel governing bodies to explore options for the continuation of after-school childcare from June 2016. A consultation has been shared with Kid's Club users and families across both schools; we have collected 71 responses currently. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete this consultation.

Through the consultation we have looked at future demand for childcare and have used this, along with parent feedback on fees, to determine a nightly fee that would cover on-going costs. We have also looked at views on other aspects of the fee structure that we would need to build into new contracts with parents and carers. An overview of the results from the consultation is attached.

The decision to close the club was made due to falling numbers which had resulted in outgoings being greater than income. A key factor in the speed at which closure was necessary was due to the club needing to have reserve funding to ensure it fulfilled statutory duties such as redundancy. This remains an important consideration. The club has sought the support of the schools in providing an assurance that this funding would be available if it is required. The schools have agreed to fund a proportion of this, if required, for a period whilst the club gets into a position where it can once again fund itself. This agreement allows us the freedom to continue to operate for a trial period under a changed staffing and fee structure in the hope that this will make the club self-sustainable.

Based on the consultation we have taken the decision that the club will remain open. In order for this to be possible we have reduced staffing to two people allowing a maximum of 16 children on any night. This does mean that one member of staff will still be made redundant. A new core fee of £8.50 per session will apply from 1st June 2016. This continues to be very good value for money as it breaks down to £2.83 per hour and includes a substantial tea-time snack such as pizza or beans on toast. Children also have free access to fruit and drinks. Working families can claim up to 85% of childcare costs through tax credits or Universal credit.

We will review this decision in October 2016 when we have information about actual numbers attending the club. If these are lower than predicted from the consultation outcomes we may have further discussions about the future of our after-school childcare provision. Before the half term holiday users of the club will receive a separate letter and a new contract to sign regarding changes to fees, terms and conditions e.g. booking contracts and cancellation periods.

We apologise for any distress that recent developments may have caused. We assure you that this has been a difficult period for us all as we care deeply about providing children and families with a high quality service that supports working families and provides everyone with safe childcare, by qualified staff, when it is required for a range of reasons. We hope that we can count on your support and continued use of the club to be able to provide this valuable service to families.

Kind Regards,



Helen Stokes (Chair)



Denise Crofts (Treasurer)



Sue Moore (Club Co-ordinator)