

What have you learned about working during the COVID pandemic?

How important nursery schools are for the community

We are more resilient than we thought we were before the pandemic

Children have extraordinary ability to adapt to change and persevere with the right kind of support

How resilient children and families are and how Homerton can support them in a range of ways

That anything is possible and just when you think you can't do any more, somehow you find the resources/support to do so

I've learned about kindness, flexibility, patience and how to wing it with a positive attitude

Patience, family values and bonding

There is more than one way of thinking about something

To be more creative and inventive to enable things to happen in different ways

The importance of good listening, communication and relationships

Great teamwork – pleasure to work collaboratively with people not previously worked with before

Different people have different responses to issues – all are legitimate and should be recognised and valued

To actively cultivate/attend to mental health needs

New IT skills

Very important to have good tech skills i.e. a Mitali to support the staff and embrace the changes

The power of meeting online and life/work continuity

Location is flexible

Video calls are tiring

Hope we never have to go through this (COVID) again and children missing out on their early years learning and school experience

What new ways of life (since the start of COVID) would you like to continue post COVID restrictions?

Thinking more of others and not only ourselves, also being more appreciative of our NHS resources and how our Education departments have gone far and beyond for the kids and their families

Keep asking each other how we are doing

Flexibility working from home; work/life balance

I would like to continue living at a slightly slower pace – continuing to walk more

Using the website, Twitter etc more dynamically to share what is happening at Homerton

Continue with online stories on website for parents

Mixture of remote and on-site working including meetings remotely as well as face to face

Zoom meetings are ok but face to face meetings are very important

Some online meetings may help people with children or childminding

Ability to include people via video links – more inclusive; mixed format meetings

Zoom – for full Governors, 50% Zoom, 50% 'live', unless restrictions mean we have to lock down again; for sub-committees, as suits – nice to have flexibility

Zoom meetings – 100% Resources, 50% full Governors

Meetings – 25% on Zoom (in winter), 75% in person

More outside activities (including Governor meetings!)

What do we need to watch out for, or catch up on, post COVID restrictions?

I think we did very well in the short time we had to prepare for the unexpected – so this experience will help us in future

Still mitigate with COVID precautions and learn to live with it

Respect individual views on distancing etc when restrictions are relaxed

Wellbeing of parents, children and staff

Energy levels if it continues (COVID fatigue)

Cautious return to normal – sickness and mental health

Keep vigilant, keep thinking of others and be more patient, as everyone's journey has been different in the past year

Ensure children get the opportunity to catch up on lost time/learning in the pandemic

What does our interaction look like with parents inside the building (pros and cons for practice before and after COVID?)

Parent engagement

Encouraging parent engagement

Catch up on visits to the nursery; being able to have chats in person, informal contact with staff – helps to maintain wider sense of community and develop relationships

Local government plans for nurseries/finances – the impact on provision in Cambridgeshire post-COVID