



3rd July 2020

Re: The Coronavirus Situation & Summer Camps

Dear All,

Firstly we hope everyone is keeping well and thank you for your patience during these uncertain times. We are pleased to be able to update again so we ask you read the following points carefully:

GOOD NEWS - OUR SUMMER CAMPS CAN GO AHEAD!

We do have some good news at last. On 1st July the Government finally released the long-awaited guidance for “Out of School Settings” like ArtShed and **our Summer Camps can go ahead**. Hooray!

The official guidance can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3eXKsrX>

This guidance has been further relaxed in the last few hours (Friday 3rd July) and the Department for Education has confirmed that the Government guidance would be ‘updated in due course’ to reflect this.

As far as we can tell from all the guidance the format we have set up for our camps is in line with the Government’s instruction to adhere to their hierarchy of protective measures to reduce the risk of the transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

WEEK 1 (13TH - 16TH JULY) CAN GO AHEAD!

We are aware that there has been a bit of confusion regarding the first week of our camps (week beg. Monday 13th July) as the Government guidance advises that holiday clubs should start when state schools finish on 20th July. However, we phoned the Department for Education (DfE) this morning and spoke to them about this issue. They said it is fine for our camps to run in this week because many schools (not least private schools) will have broken up earlier than 20th July. This is great news and means **our camps will be going ahead from Monday 13th July**.

ADD YOURSELF TO THE WAITING LIST!

Thank you to everyone who booked in faith and we’re very conscious that, with the reduced number of spaces the camps filled up very quickly. We are therefore trying to work out a way of opening up further spaces (up to 15 more per day) and still be able to operate safely.

We believe we have the space to run two groups separately but it would mean a number of changes to the existing set-up:

- Social distancing at tables would be reduced to 1m+
- The garden would be zoned into two separate areas and marquees with effectively two separate camps of 15 children running in parallel.

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We are working out the exact details as quickly as possible and also expecting further advice from the Government clarifying some of the guidance. As soon as we are sure we can open up to more numbers we will let everyone know.

To this end **please add yourself to the waiting lists for whichever day you'd like to book as we will use these to allocate any extra spaces when they become available.**

To add yourself to a waiting list please go as if to book the day and click on Wait List.

To date, we are still waiting to see if we can run any holiday camps in other venues such as schools.

PLEASE HELP US STAY ALERT!

We are very conscious that while our holiday camps will hopefully bring some much-needed fun they also inevitably increase the risk of children mixing with wider groups. We would therefore ask that you take on board the Government's advice to parents and carers on this matter:

Attending OOSS [Out of School Settings] can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. However, it is crucial that we ensure we are minimising the risks to the nation's health. It is for this reason that parents and carers are being encouraged to limit the number of settings their children attend as far as possible, and ideally to ensure their children attend the same setting consistently.

THANK YOU!

ArtShed