Dear

As you are aware the future of the maintained nursery schools in your constituency is precarious if government does not extend the current supplementary funding beyond March 2020 or implement a new sustainable funding solution. Ministers are promising to look at this within the next Spending Review, but that will be too late. Nursery schools need to know now what level of funding they will receive from April 2020 onwards in order to budget responsibly.

Government have accepted that maintained nursery schools cost more than other forms of early years provision because they perform a different role:

• Maintained nursery schools transform lives: 64% are in the 30% most deprived areas of England, and because of the quality of education they offer (63% are graded Outstanding by Ofsted) they help close the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers, improving social mobility as a result.

• Their admissions policies prioritise the children in greatest need. They work closely with health and social care to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families and offer integral family support within the nursery school and support many children in need who are increasingly not picked up by other services.

• They have a unique pool of expertise in supporting children with SEND both taking children whom other settings do not have the resources or expertise to support and helping local settings to build their expertise and successfully support more children with SEND.

• The whole early years sector benefits from the expertise of maintained nursery schools acting as catalysts to raise standards in their locality through supporting schools and early years settings to work together to improve their quality, including through a network of Early Years Teaching Schools.

[Suggest you add your own experience of your nursery school here.]

If no funding solution is put in place after April 2020, maintained nursery schools would in future only receive the basic rate paid to providers under the Early Years National Funding Formula, which is based on the costs of private, voluntary and independent settings and childminders, and primary schools, which additionally receive a lump sum via their schools funding. Nursery schools would lose the funding that enables them to fulfil their legal obligations of employing a Head Teacher and qualified teachers, including qualified special educational needs co-ordinator.

I hope that you will do everything in your power possible to draw the attention of the Secretary of State for Education and especially the Chancellor to the concerns raised. The future of our early years education is too precious to lose.

I look forward to hearing from you.