



Friday 29th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

We have been working hard to formulate plans to ensure nursery is safe enough for the children and staff to return next week. Many changes have been made within the setting and to the procedures that we follow so below is a summary of the variations.

Thank you

Before we set out these arrangements, we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close our doors on Monday 23rd March 2020. We know that this period has been challenging for many of you, in particular those that have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, those with a child who has Special Educational Needs or Disability and those single parent families- well done, you have made it through!

Welcome back everyone

From Monday 1st June we are able to welcome back all the children into the setting. As initial uptake was low, we took the decision to only open partially (initially 8am-4pm, Monday to Thursday), however parent enquiries over the last week has meant that plans have been put in place to extend our hours further as well as opening on Friday's from week commencing 8th June 2020.

For the vast majority of children and young people, Coronavirus is a mild illness therefore their attendance at nursery is being promoted as a positive due to the risks being low. However, some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend their early years setting. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss details with you.

As we mentioned in our previous letter (dated 22nd May) we are intending to split children down into smaller groups (bubbles). For now, we have two bubbles- one in preschool and one in the toddler room. From Monday 8th June, we will have three bubbles (one in each classroom).

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help make these arrangement effective.

Below is some key information for parents who have children returning; it may also be of interest to other parents who are considering what to do in the upcoming weeks.

The start and end of sessions

Parents will not be allowed to enter the nursery building at any time- this is a preventative measure to minimise contact.

We have tried to stagger drop and collection times, firstly to reduce waiting times for parents and secondly to minimise parent contact with one another. If you have not been given a start or finish time then please take it that your child can attend the actual times of the session.

-If your child is in the preschool then please come to the preschool gate to the right of the main entrance.

-If your child is in the toddler room bubble (this includes babies) then please come to the toddler canopy gate to the left of the main entrance.

At both gates a member of staff will be on hand to meet you and help your child transition into the classroom.

Please bring with you to nursery:

- Small bag containing nappy changing supplies (if required), a clean set of clothes, a sunhat and sun cream. These will be wiped with antibacterial wipes on entry.
- A packed lunch for your child (clearly labelled)
- A drinks bottle/cup for your child to use throughout the day. We will top these up as needed.

The staff within each of the bubbles will actively support the children to limit the risk of infection:

- Frequent hand washing will take place
- Respiratory hygiene (involving coughing, sneezing and tissue use) will be monitored, and carefully regulated by staff. All rooms have lidded bins.
- Liquid soap and paper towels are available and we have stocks of these.
- Hand sanitiser is available and we have stocks of these.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and all surfaces will be cleaned at the end of the day.
- Areas will be clearly cordoned off to minimise risk of people from different bubbles coming into close contact (less than 2 metres)
- Practical resources will not be shared between bubbles. Each bubble has its own toys, these will not be shared by the other bubbles. Resources and equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- **Children should not bring items from home to nursery – this includes toys, large bags etc.**

Toileting.

Nappies will be changed as usual with staff wearing the same PPE (apron and gloves) that they usually wear. Intimate care will continue in the same way as it always has. Children will be allowed to access the toilets as usual during each session, but will be closely supported by staff who will be on hand to ensure routines are followed. Children will continue to be supported to wash their hands. Children will be asked to use specific toilets marked for their “bubble”.

Clothes.

The children should wear practical, appropriate clothing and footwear (that are suitable for indoor and outdoor play). They will need to wear a clean set of clothes at the start of every day to reduce cross contamination. Children will need a light coat and on wet days they will need wellies.

Please apply sun cream before nursery if it is a sunny day and send children with appropriate sun protection. Permissions for further application will be sent to you for completion. Staff will wear gloves for this.

Outdoor play

We are lucky to have lots of outdoor spaces and we will be using these to ensure children have lots opportunities to play outside as usual.

Lunchtime

The children will remain in their bubble and will eat their dinner in their classroom as per normal. Staff will support them as usual but please be mindful of making packed lunches easy for children to eat by themselves. As usual, handwashing and surface cleaning will be an integral part of this process.

Hygiene measures.

Strict hygiene measures will be in place and this includes additional lunchtime cleaning whereby areas will get an additional clean.

Some toys, which are difficult to clean e.g. soft toys and play dough, have been removed to ensure the environment is hygienic. This doesn't mean we won't use a wide range of resources; we will just adapt so we might use salt dough which can be disposed of when one child has used it etc.

Health and safety.

We will hold additional fire safety drills to ensure children know where to go during evacuation with their bubble.

Classrooms will be well ventilated as advised.

Signage will help you to find out what to do, where to go and how to socially distance.

Communication.

If you should need to speak to a member of the team, please telephone. Staff will only meet parents if it is necessary and please adhere to social distancing.

If a child, or adult, shows symptoms of the virus.

If anyone in nursery displays symptoms, they will be immediately isolated and arrangements made to send them home. If the person is confirmed to be infected with the virus, everyone in that bubble will be enforced to self-isolate for 14 days. We would contact you directly if this affects your child. Could we please ask that you ensure nursery has up to date emergency contact information (considering anyone on your list that may be shielding and unable to collect your child).

Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary- if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back into nursery and hope that the measures that we have put in place will help provide reassurance that your child's safety is at the heart of our decision-making during this time.

The government is strongly encouraging parents to send children back to nursery and we are keen to support this and make an open and friendly environment with additional safety measures in place.

Remember, if you decide to bring your child back to nursery at a later date they will start on a Monday, so we will need to know on the Thursday before they join us so we can adjust the bubbles.

I am sorry that the letter is a list of "please do and please don't" statements but we need to ensure we have provided the information you require.

Please feel free to contact nursery if you need clarification or have any concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Childs
Nursery Manager

