



Dear Parents and carers

18 June 2020

Wow what a couple of weeks we have had in nursery. Thank you to everyone that has shown us support and donated following the fire. We really have been overwhelmed by peoples' words of support and their generosity. The children have been amazing too- it's been great having so many back in nursery, we've enjoyed seeing how much they've grown and hearing all their stories about lock down!

The playground is coming on beautifully now. The fence which was supplied free by Grange fencing and fitted by a local company called L&S Smith Construction, it looks fantastic. The soft pour safety surface is being laid next week to. This mega outlay is being paid for by Besblock- our wonderful neighbours, who we are so grateful to. We have had lots of toys and resources donated by parents, the community and Hopscotch nursery in Shifnal (who have now sadly closed) these items have really helped fill the playground for now. Once the play area is laid, then we can really start planning the areas and decide how we will develop the playground, which is very exciting!

Nursery Numbers and Bubbles

Since the first week we have trebled in the number of children attending. It has made us so happy to see the children returning happy and full of energy and to have the nursery busy again. We have also had so many enquiries over the last two weeks so we are confident that nursery will be sustainable now and for the future.

Due to Covid still being around and as per government guidelines we are still having to cap our classroom numbers to minimise any spread. We have formed bubbles or groups of children that stay constant week in week out. This has worked fine for us but does put limitations on children that may need extra days. Our bubbles are as follows:

Babies: They form one bubble and over the course of the week they can have up to 16 children in their room- this averages' around 6 a day, at the moment. The staff in this bubble are Sharon and Katie

Toddlers: They also form one bubble and over the course of the week can have a maximum of 16 children in. The staff in this bubble are Tina, Donna and Debbie.

Preschool: They have two bubbles each with a maximum of 16 children in. The bubbles operate separately and do not come into contact with each other. They use separate play areas and toilets and have separate staff. The staff in bubble one are; Danni and Mel who have around 8 children per day. Bubble two consists of Bev, Brogan and Kim who have between 9 and 12 children a day.

By operating in these bubbles, it means that should someone in a bubble contract Covid then it will be contained within that bubble and not spread around the whole nursery. Should someone in a bubble test positive for Covid then others in the bubble will be notified- the person with Covid will need to self-isolate for 7 days. The rest of the bubble will need to self-isolate for 14 days to contain the virus. This may all change as per the government guidelines, but we will keep you posted should anything be different but please do not send your child into nursery if they are ill in any way.

Children in bubbles are not being told to socially distance from one another as indeed this would be impossible and would really breach their learning experiences at nursery. Staff are constantly cleaning throughout the day, wiping handles, surfaces, doors and toys. Toilets and floors are cleaned during lunch and a daily deep clean takes place after closing which includes resources being sterilised overnight. We really do think we have reduced the risks as much as possible and feel we are as safe as we can be.

We are happy that we can continue in this way until the end of term (July 17th) but are now reviewing how we will operate when some of our staff break up for the holidays as they are term time contracted staff. We think we will have to stay on our partial opening hours of 8am - 4pm throughout the holidays as we will struggle to stretch the staffing across longer days- if we want to keep the bubbles as efficient and as small as they are. We may also have to reduce some of the funding sessions we offer to ensure that everyone gets some sessions over the holidays. We are working on this and will try and keep things as consistent as possible as we know the majority of you are working parents and rely on the childcare, we provide for you. We are hoping that the government guidelines will also change by then as the infection rate drops further meaning some of the restrictions will be lifted.

Throughout this the Halesfield staff have been great and have adapted so well to the changes, they really have proven to be the most loyal and dedicated team around. They have welcomed all the children back and made the environment as fun as it was before Covid and the fire, so a huge well done and thank you to them all.

Finlays' Photo's

Mr Finlay's photo day next Thursday has proven to be very popular indeed. We still have a few slots available throughout the morning so if you're not in on the day or haven't returned to nursery yet then please do get in contact via email or Facebook and we will find you a slot.

Questions and queries

We understand that it must be difficult for some parents not being able to come into nursery, sit down and have a chat like normal but please be reassured we are still here and able to answer any questions, offer support or be a listening ear. If it is difficult to chat at collection and drop off then please ring the nursery, your child's key person will be able to speak to you. Any queries regarding invoices or extra sessions then please either ring and speak to Jackie in the office or email over to nursery halesfield@telfordnurseries.org and Helen will be able to help you.

Yours sincerely



Helen Childs
Nursery Manager