



22 May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I really hope that you are all well and have been coping through these worrying and difficult times. As I sit writing to you from an empty nursery it feels incredibly strange. Although it will be a long while yet, I am excited to think about when the nursery will be full of children and fun again.

We fully understand how worried and concerned you are going to be following the governments advice that Early Years Settings will hopefully return 1st June. We are trying our best to ensure what we do is safe, fair and the best for everyone and not just one or two- so please be respectful of the tough decisions we may have to take. We have read through the governments advice for our sector and consequently we have made modifications to how our setting will run for the foreseeable- some are outlined further down in this letter.

However, you must understand with the best will in the world and whatever methods and practices we put in place it is impossible for children to socially distance from each other or the staff. If your child needs a hug, they will receive one, but we will use our common sense. The staff have been advised not to wear facemasks whilst working however, we will wear them and other types of PPE should your child become ill at nursery and begin to show any symptoms. We know we cannot do our job from a distance, but the staff will exercise judgement to ensure they maintain the highest standards of safety and cleanliness, to prevent the spread of infection.

The safety of the children always has and always will be our priority therefore we will only open the doors when we believe we are COVID-secure and the risks are manageable. Initially, to help manage staff hours and accommodate daily cleaning the nursery will open on shorter hours than normal. We will open 8.00am-4pm but will stagger the drop off and collection times to ensure minimal contact occurs between parents and children. We will notify those due to start about how the new procedures are likely to work.

In anticipation of reopening the nursery, we are still awaiting further advice from Public Health England and the Department of Education. In the meantime, (and these may change over time) below are some of the controls and measures we are looking to put in place when reopening:

Staff and children are to have outdoor shoes and indoor slippers for use in nursery

Any equipment that cannot be easily washed and disinfected, will be removed prior to reopening

Children will be cared for in smaller groups than normal and the groups will not mix with each other during the nursery day.

Initially we will be asking parents to bring packed lunches into nursery, all boxes will need to be clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Distances will be made greater between children who have a sleep during their time at nursery and bedding will be washed daily after use.

Both staff and children must not bring in any non-essential items into the nursery.

There will be limited access to the nursery for non-essential visitors including parents

Additional and fastidious health and safety checks will be daily routine.

As part of our planning process to reopen on Monday 1st June 2020, and to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible for everyone (especially for the children), please email the nursery halesfield@telfordnurseries.org if you have any questions or comments or would like to amend your child's attendance sessions.

From all the team at Halesfield Day Nursery, we look forward to seeing you all soon, in the meantime take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Kind regards

Helen Childs
Nursery Manager