

14th August 2020



Dear Parents,

As we return in September we are faced with a unique set of circumstances. We have;

- Children returning after the summer break
- Children and parents who have not been in the setting since March
- Children just starting who have been unable to do visits, some haven't even been in the building!
- Guidance that supports restricting parents entering the building
- & social distancing for adults to maintain!

The Government guidance for September is that early years settings can operate as a single bubble, no longer needing to have smaller bubbles within the provision. This means that we can run pre-school reasonably normally for the children, with additional hygiene measures. There will be different arrangements for adults however, which are laid out below.

If your child usually attends more than one setting then please talk to us, as the guidance still recommends limiting this.

We are looking at staggering start days over the first week or so, so that parents of children that have not been for a while are able to come into the building to settle the children, and new families are able to do their visits and settling in safely. This will ensure that parents in the building will be able to maintain social distancing during those crucial first few days at pre-school.

We will try to maintain a provision that looks as normal as possible to the children, although it will not look so normal for the adults! Social distancing of 2m (or even 1m plus) is not realistic with small children, and we are encouraged that the government advice acknowledges this. We will encourage distancing but the majority of our efforts will be on maintaining good hygiene with increased hand washing, and a reduced selection of activities that can all be easily cleaned. We will also spend as much of our time outside as possible.

For the vast majority of children and young people coronavirus is a mild illness, however for others and for vulnerable groups it can be very serious. The measures we have put in place are to minimise the risks for everyone.

We have put the following measures in place, and ask you to follow them.

- Anyone who goes abroad on holiday, or who visits areas with a local lockdown, must follow the Government advice on self-isolation on return.
- Anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, must not attend pre-school, and should self isolate according to the latest guidance. This includes children and staff.
- Please socially distance yourselves from each other and the staff as far as possible.
- Drop off and pick up on the patio at the back. A member of staff will collect / bring your child, so that parents / carers do not enter the building as it is difficult to socially distance in the corridor and around the baskets. (We will manage this differently during the first couple of weeks to cater for new and returning families)

- A one way system will be in place from the car park - come down the steps nearest the building and go back up to the car park using the grass steps further along. (Please let us know if you need a more accessible route and we can use the front door.)
- Only one adult does the drop off. If you have other siblings with you, please leave them in the car if it is safe to do so and you can see the car.
- Please limit conversation with staff on drop off. If you have lots to tell us please use email as you have been doing or arrange another time.
- A member of staff will sign your child in and out.
- Please do not bring in toys from home (unless it is an essential comforter)
- We ask that children wear clean clothes in, and recommend that they change when they get home and you wash the clothes straight away.
- sun cream **MUST** be applied at home, to reduce the number of close contacts staff have to make with children.
- Please pack a change of clothes and own sun hat, coat, waterproof etc in a single bag if possible.
- Lunch boxes: please try to pack lunches that the children can manage themselves. Of course we will help if needed, but the fewer contacts between staff and children's lunches the better.
- Letters and forms will be emailed rather than printed.
- the children will wash their hands more often than usual, including as soon as they get to pre-school, and immediately before leaving. We have routines to ensure that children understand when and how to wash their hands. Children will be supported to do this effectively. We will use a standard anti-bacterial hand wash, rather than an alcohol based gel.
- We will ensure that children understand good respiratory hygiene - "catch it, bin it, kill it", with an ample supply of tissues and bins.
- Soft toys and resources that are difficult to clean will be removed for the time being.
- Resources from the day will be cleaned, and in the case of items such as books etc will be placed into 'quarantine' for 72 hours before coming back into circulation.
- Shared resources will be avoided as far as reasonably practical. For example, children may have their own playdough, rather than a shared tub which is kept for a few days.

With regard to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). There is no requirement for staff to wear PPE other than normal use such as nappy changes. However, if a child displays coronavirus symptoms, the staff member who stays with the child while we wait for them to be collected will wear an apron, gloves, a face mask and a face shield (if the child is coughing).

We will contact you individually to arrange start days and visits. Thank you all for your flexibility in this, as we plan to ensure a safe and happy return for all of us.

Very best wishes from us all.

Carrie, Emma, Laura, Danni & Wendy & team

Diary Dates

Tuesday 1 st September	Start of Term 1 2020/2021
	Development Day - Safeguarding Update (pre-school closed)
Wednesday 2 nd September	Children return to pre-school
Tuesday 20 th October	End of Term 1
Wednesday 21 st October	Development Day - First Aid (pre-school closed)
Monday 2 nd November	Start of term 2
Friday 18 th December	End of Term 2