

Covid-19 Policy.

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a persistent dry cough, a high temperature and loss of taste and/or smell.

Strict Social distancing rules and good Hygiene practices as set out by the government are essential in preventing the spread of the virus.

Social distancing is the responsibility of all staff, parents/carers both inside and outside of nursery.

Parents/carers and staff are must maintain social distancing in the wider community in order to help prevent bringing the virus into our setting.

The Nursery Manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery.

The nursery manager holds the right to change opening hours and numbers of children or close nursery according to staffing numbers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

Our policy for Covid-19:

Is to maintain social distancing where possible and appropriate

To ensure all children and staff follow good hygiene routines

Promote positive well being and understanding for all staff and children

Support all families and children by communicating regularly

Follow strict policy as per the governments guidance when children/and or families and staff show symptoms of Covid-19 to prevent further spread

Protect staff and their families as much as possible from the risk of catching Covid-19

The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery

Our procedures for Covid-19:

We support this by:

Our procedures for Infection Control:

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- On arrival and collection children hand overs will take place at the internal nursery entrance. Where more than one family arrives at a time, families are expected to wait outside maintaining social distance from each other.
- Where children are in the upstairs of the building parents/carers must let the staff downstairs know and a member of staff will then let the children upstairs in/out. (avoiding parents/carers using the stairs)
- On arrival children will be taken to wash their hands immediately by a member of staff.
- Within the setting the doors to the outside area will be open all day and children will be actively encouraged to use the outside area to support social distancing naturally.
- Where possible children will be encouraged to stay in small groups, maintaining social distance. However, given the age of the children the nursery cannot guarantee this will be possible.
- At mealtimes children will be spread out as much as is physically possible within the setting.
- Toys/resources will be limited to help control the spread of infection and will be rotated daily to allow sterilisation. Soft furnishings will be avoided where possible.
- Toys from home unless pre-arranged with staff will not be permitted.
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children.
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Bedding will be used on a single use basis and washed on a 60-degree wash every day.
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are always maintained and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.
- PPE will be provided for staff to wear at critical times i.e nappy changing, preparing/handling food.
- Staff will follow a strict rota for cleaning and sterilising resources throughout

the day. i.e clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal

- All staff and children will frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- children will be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose and use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- stagger the use of staff rooms and offices to limit occupancy
- Sterilizing water bottles daily

Wellbeing:

At this time, we anticipate that children may be anxious and unsettled during this period.

The wellbeing of all children in the setting is our priority. Where possible we will endeavor to continue to follow the EYFS Curriculum however our main focus will be the prime areas including, personal, social and Emotional development and communication and language.

Reduce the use of shared resources:

- by limiting the amount of shared resources that are taken home and limit exchange of take-home resources between children, young people and staff
- Shared materials and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently

Visitors:

- Where possible visitors coming into setting will be avoided.
- In the event that a visitor needs to attend such as for health and medical purposes for a child with SEND or a contractor that is unable to come out of hours; they will be asked to follow the settings COVID-19 hygiene procedures and will avoid direct contact with children and staff.

Travelling:

- As advised by the government parents/carers and staff are encouraged to avoid public transport if possible.
- During this time the use of cars will be limited, and school runs will be done on foot via a walking bus.

Symptoms, quarantine, and testing:

- Families who have been advised to self-isolate for 12 weeks due to existing conditions should carefully consider the safety of bringing children to nursery. Nursery cannot be responsible for anyone outside of the setting.
- Anyone who presents with symptoms of Covid-19 (temperature, persistent cough and/or breathing difficulties) must follow the government guidance and self-isolate for 14 days as a household. This includes staff, parents/carers and children.
- If symptoms present whilst at nursery parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately and the child will be moved to a safe place maintaining social distance until collected. Self-Isolation rules then begin immediately.
- Where children and/or staff present with symptoms a COVID-19 test can be requested via the manager, who will then apply for this on their behalf. Children and staff will not be able to return until the test comes back negative or they have completed the 14-day isolation if positive.
- If more than one child is tested positive at the same time the nursery manager holds the right to close the nursery for the period of the 14 days isolation to prevent further spread.

Low Staffing and Nursery Closure:

- In the event that staff have to self-isolate and we are unable to cover those members of staff bringing us under the EYFS Ratio's of adults to children, the nursery manager reserves the right to temporarily reduce the number of children that can attend at short notice.

Should this occur then nursery will follow a priority system for children attending nursery:

- Working parents
- Vulnerable children and/or those with SEND
- All other children.

Links for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>