



Dear Parent and Carers,

RE: Nursery Re-opening

We hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Over the past few days, we have been able to speak with many of you regarding the possible re-opening of nursery. Of course, a small number of children of Key Workers have been attending throughout lockdown, but the government has now stated that it hopes to open nurseries in full from June 1st. It is very important to note that, at this stage, the 1st June date for re-opening is not yet confirmed by the government, but in the meantime we have been told to work on the basis that we will be re-opening.

We understand that many parents will be feeling anxious about the prospect of sending their little ones back into nursery. Please let us reassure you that our priority will be to ensure that children continue to feel cared for and safe with familiar adults. Although there will be changes - as outlined below - we are conscious that the children's transition back into nursery needs to be done as sensitively as possible.

Measures we are looking to implement to keep everyone as safe as possible:

- We will undertake a thorough risk assessment prior to ensure that our measures meet government guidance
- Children will be asked to clean their hands on arrival to the nursery and far more often than usual, including before and after lunch and snack
- We will continue to stress the importance of children, parents, staff or any visitors, such as suppliers, not entering the premises if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus, whether confirmed by a test or not
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' (CIBIKI) approach. The government is not recommending the use of face masks, stating that standard hygiene approaches like the 'CIBIKI' are to be used
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often and also cleaning surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches and bannisters, much more regularly than normal
- Utilising more spaces in the school (Details to follow once we have an idea of how many children are returning). The government recognises that it is not possible for young children to distance within each group.
- Any necessary shared materials and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.
- Drop off time for parents will likely need to be amended to avoid congestion with school parents. We are therefore asking nursery parents to drop off 8.00am-8.55am or 9.30am onwards
- Where possible, nursery children will eat in their room or enjoy an outdoor picnic. If children have to eat in the hall, groups will be spaced at a safe distance.
- Making use of the outdoor environment for lessons where possible. We will explore having specific areas outdoors for each group.
- Although the guidance is clear that parents and staff do not need to do temperature checks upon entry, we are asking parents to take their child's temperature before setting off for nursery to mitigate the risk further.
- Limiting drop-off and collection to only one parent per family

- Parents will need to drop off at the door in some cases. This will be outlined when details are provided to individual families. We will ensure this is done sensitively (see transition details below).
- Removing unnecessary items from rooms and other learning environments. We will look to remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean. We will likely be using more plastic resources for the time being than we would use normally. If you have plastic toys at home that are easy to clean, we would welcome donations.
- Encouraging parents, children and staff to walk or cycle to school where possible. Staff will be supported to be able to avoid public transport
- Signposting parents to education resources such as e-bug and PHE schools' resources to assist them in speaking to their children about Covid-19 related issues
- All trips and gatherings will be paused.
- The staff who are returning to work, will do so following a confidential risk assessment.

What happens if a child or staff member has Covid-19 symptoms

During the course of the day, any child showing Covid-19 symptoms will be kept isolated from the other children until they are collected and taken home. At this stage the adult will be asked to wear PPE. All staff and pupils who are attending will have access to a Covid-19 test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

The nursery is asking that all families, who return to nursery, to agree to having their child tested for COVID 19 if they come down with symptoms.

Transitioning back into nursery and between rooms

The majority of our children will need a transition back to nursery. These changes will be outlined in as much detail as possible to support you with this. We will be creating transition plans for each child returning.

Fees

When your child returns to nursery on 1st June, your normal fees and policies will apply. If you are unable to start on 1st June, due to circumstances beyond your control, as we realise this is an unusual situation, we are able to keep the place open, and extend the timeline to June or July but we would require 50% of the fees for each month. This, we hope, will give you an opportunity to review the situation but it would be our expectation by 1st August you would be in a position to know if you still required the place or not. We would assume by this time you would give us a month's notice.

If you are keeping your child home, we would expect the fees to be paid in full. If you no longer require the place I would be grateful if you could let me know within the next 7 days. Normal notice period will apply. If you want to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vulnerable individuals

Children who are classed as 'extremely vulnerable' or live with someone classed as 'extremely vulnerable' have been advised to shield, and should not return to nursery at this stage.

If a child lives with someone who is 'clinically vulnerable' (but not 'clinically extremely vulnerable'), including those who are pregnant, they can attend nursery.

With all that said, please keep in mind that we are under constant review and more information is being shared with us over the next few weeks that will help us shape our plans.

We will write to you again with more specific details about which bubbles your child(ren) will be in on their return. At this stage, I would very much appreciate your patience while we continue to gear up for the possible imminent return of many of our children. Thank you very much for your ongoing support and I hope you have a pleasant and productive week.

Yours faithfully,

Leann Valiquette

NURSERY PRINCIPAL