



Covid-19 Policy

Statement

Covid-19 is a new illness, it is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal. This policy and associated risk assessment is to limit the spread of the virus within the setting.

Who is at risk?

All patrons of the setting are at risk including : staff, children, parents /carers of the children attending, any other individuals involved in the day to day operation of the setting. Some groups of people are more vulnerable to the virus and these include the elderly, pregnant women and those with existing underlying health conditions.

It will be virtually impossible to socially distance young children, they will be coughing, sneezing and hugging and will want to naturally explore and socialise. Even if we keep children in keyworker groups we will not be able to keep them 2 meters apart, but we will put additional measures in place to help with this.

What controls are required to limit the spread of the virus?

The following controls will be in place at all times:

1. **Handwashing**

- All staff and children will be required to wash their hands immediately upon entry to the setting and before leaving. We have purchased a portable handwashing unit for use in the garden to enable hands to be washed BEFORE entering.
- Hand washing facilities will be available at all times with soap and water in place.
- Our hand dryers will be used to dry hands, if these are not practical, paper towel will be used to dry hands and this will be placed in a lidded bin.
- The lidded bin will be emptied safely at least every hour.
- Gel sanitisers will be available in any areas where there are no immediate handwashing facilities.
- Staff and children will be reminded to wash their hands on a regular basis for a period of 20 seconds with soap and water and reminded of the importance of drying hands properly with the hand dryers or disposable towels. Children will be supervised at all times when hand washing to ensure that they do so properly.
- All children will be reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue which will be disposed of immediately in a lidded bin. The contents of the lidded bin will be disposed of at least every hour. Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it to avoid touching the face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues are made available throughout the setting.
- Staff to report any problems and carry out skin checks as part of skin surveillance programme. Parents can provide an emollient cream to protect hands from increased washing if they wish.

2. Cleaning

The following controls will be in place at all times:

- During the closure, the nursery has been thoroughly cleaned.
- Our regular evening cleaner will commence work again with effect from Tuesday 26th May.
- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, furniture and toys. These areas will be cleaned regularly using appropriate cleaning products and methods. Rigorous checks will be carried out by management to ensure that the procedures are being fully adhered to at all times.
- All resources will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after use.
- Soft toys and role play clothing have been removed from the nursery, all remaining resources are easily cleaned.
- All bins in the nursery have been replaced with foot operated bins.
- Bedding will remain allocated to each individual child and will be washed at the end of every week as usual.

3. Social Distancing

The recommended distance for safe distancing is 2 metres however this is difficult to maintain in a setting such as a nursery. The following changes will be made to the running of each session:

- 7:30am drop offs and 6:30pm collections will be temporarily suspended, and nursery operating hours will be changed to 8:30am – 5:30pm until the end of June Initially (Unless there are exceptional circumstances or a specific need, which should be discussed in advance).
- Parents /carers will not be permitted to enter the setting. Drop off of the children between the hours of 8:30am and 9:00am will now take place at the gate to the garden.
- Collection of the children will now be co-ordinated by parents buzzing at the front door of the nursery and then moving to the end of the ramp. A member of staff will then bring the children out to parents.
- Parents will be asked to practice safe distancing of 2 metres whilst waiting to drop off and collect their children. We appreciate that this will increase the time waiting but please be patient. If you travel in a car, please stagger getting out of your car to avoid long queues.
- Group sizes will reflect the number of staff available to ensure that groups are kept as small as possible.
- Staff will not be permitted to sit with a child on their lap for extended periods of time or to carry them unnecessarily, staff will of course be permitted to assist children with toileting and eating and comfort them if they are distressed.
- Floor markings throughout the nursery will assist staff with social distancing from other adults (not the children)
- Lunch times and snack times will be staggered where possible to keep the group sizes small.
- Some activities will be suspended including sand play, water play, play dough, cooking activities and any others which pose a high risk of contamination. Unless child numbers are such that individual activity trays are possible.
- Outdoor play will be encouraged as much as possible and windows will be kept open at all times during the day.
- Any sleeping children will be placed two metres apart.
- Staff breaks will be monitored to ensure no more than 2 staff are in the staff room at any one time.

4. Preventing infection from outside

- Staff will have the option of wearing face coverings while speaking to parents (this is not a current government guideline) Staff will not wear face coverings during the day while with children.
- No toys from home are to be brought into nursery. (Comfort items will be allowed but they will need to remain in the nursery)
- No bags to be brought to nursery. (Staff will have our own carrier bags at drop off time and parents are asked to place items into these bags).
- Parents are asked to provide nappies in a sealed bulk bag which can be easily wiped clean before being stored in the nursery
- Staff and children will remove shoes on entry to the nursery and shoes will be stored outside (shelter will be provided).
- No person other than staff will be permitted entry into the nursery at any point through the day.
- Staff using public transport to travel to work will be asked to wear a face covering for the journey.
- Staff will not be permitted to travel to or from work in their uniforms if they use public transport.
- Staff will not be permitted to have acrylic nails or hand jewellery to further enhance hand hygiene.
- We will temporarily suspend the use of the daily communication books and will provide a written sheet to update parents. If parents wish to pass on messages to nursery, they are able to send a text or an email.

4. Sickness

- We will **not** take temperatures of staff or children upon entry to the nursery as this is not a current recommendation. We will not routinely take temperatures throughout the day as this will interrupt play, however we will, as always remain vigilant to any signs of a temperature.
- Any person with a temperature above 37.8 is asked not to come to the nursery.
- If a child becomes unwell with a continuous new cough or a high temperature they will be isolated and sent home to follow the stay at home guidelines. The member of staff who cares for this child will wear a facemask, gloves and an apron until the child is collected.
- Any staff who display symptoms will be sent home and a test will be arranged for them, they will not be permitted to return to work until the results are back and have shown negative.
- If any member of staff or any child receives a positive test result, the nursery will inform everybody in that specific group and in line with guidelines, the whole group will be asked to self- isolate for 14 days.
- Children and staff with any signs of illness should not attend nursery.

5. Government Guidelines

- All staff have been asked to observe all current guidelines in respect of social distancing when not at work.
- We ask that all parents also observe current guidelines in respect of social distancing at home as well as in nursery and inform the nursery of any symptoms immediately.

This policy was adopted on 10th June 2020 and will be reviewed on a weekly basis.