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MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



COVID-19: Guidance for Parents

Important Information about Infectious Diseases

As you will all be aware the world is currently facing an outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus, COVID-19 and this epidemic is understandably a cause for concern as it continues to spread throughout the UK. However, through careful planning and pre-cautionary measures we can help to minimise the spread within the pre-school and local community.

This guidance sets out the measures that the Pre-School has put in place and the steps that parents and carers can take to reduce the spread. We will continue to send you updated information as the situation progresses and we thank you all for co-operating fully.

For up to date information please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Who is this policy for?

This policy is for the protection of all staff, children and parents and families.

What will we do?

As a pre-school we are aware of the dangers of being exposed to Covid -19 and will do our utmost to ensure the safety of every single person that enters our setting.

We will try to implement safe social distancing as well as we can but as you can imagine small children may need comforting and will find it difficult to understand why they cannot sit as close to their peers as they normally can. We will only have a very small number of children in the setting which will help with social distancing measures.

The children will be spoken to regularly about why we need to wash hands more often, why their teachers are wearing gloves and protective clothing and why all their friends are not in pre-school at this present time. This will be explained in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of understanding. We want to ensure that the children feel safe and secure while in our care but have as much fun as they normally would while at pre-school.

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



How do we know if someone has the symptoms?

High temperature/fever and/or a new persistent cough

What are the rules for self-isolating?

Any staff, parents or children with symptoms will be asked stay at home for at least seven days. If they live with other people, they should all stay at home for at least 14 days, to avoid spreading the infection outside the home. After 14 days, anyone they live with who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine/ return to work.

What we will do if I suspect a child or member of staff has COVID-19 but it's not been confirmed?

If the child or staff member is displaying the symptoms as above, they will be sent home to self-isolate for seven days and their whole household should isolate for 14 days. If it is a positive result, we will deep clean the setting.

What will we do while we wait for a child to be collected?

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible and if appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated with a staff member.

We will always be mindful of individual children's needs – for example, it would not be appropriate for younger children to be alone without adult supervision. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least two metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, we will take them to use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned afterwards.

What should I do if a child or staff member becomes unwell at pre-school and has reason to believe they may have COVID-19?

If the child or staff member is displaying the symptoms as above, they should be sent home to self-isolate for seven days and follow the above procedure.

They should not go to their GP surgery or hospital. While waiting for someone to pick them up, we will try to find somewhere isolated for them to wait or somewhere which is at least two metres away from other children or the team. We will ask them to try not to touch any surfaces and to cough or sneeze into a tissue should they need to. We will clean the room after they have left.

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



Parents need to be available to collect their child within 30 minutes after receiving a call because their child is unwell or had an accident.

What we will do to clean the pre-school afterwards?

The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using cleaning products before being used by anyone else. If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

What can we do to prevent the spread of the virus?

Good hygiene and handwashing are essential and very important in childcare anyway but encouraging children to wash their hands thoroughly on a regular basis will be an extra precaution. Asking parents to drop off and collect children from the main entrance gate will help to stop the virus entering the building. The staff will also wear protective clothing where appropriate such as gloves and aprons where appropriate.

What if one of my pre-school children is returning from one of the listed countries and wants to come back to pre-school?

It no longer matters where people have travelled to and from, if they display the following symptoms, they must self-isolate for a period of 7 days: High temperature / fever, new persistent cough, if a parent is self-isolating, the whole household will also need to isolate which means that the child cannot come to nursery for 14 days possibly longer if the parent's symptoms become full blown Coronavirus.

If a child at pre-school starts to demonstrate symptoms, the pre-school will send them home immediately.

What if we travel abroad during this time? Will my child be able to attend pre-school upon our return?

If you choose to travel abroad with your family then as per Government guidelines you and your family will need to self-isolate for 14 days upon your return.

Staff are currently advised not to travel abroad and will have to self-isolate for 14 days upon return, if they choose to travel.

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



Testing for early years staff

All essential workers - including education and childcare workers - in England who have symptoms are able to book test appointments. This is available to critical workers who are worried about symptoms or self-isolating.

There are two routes for accessing the UK Testing Programme:

- [The employer portal](#) – this is for employers who wish to assist their employees with registration
- [The employee portal](#) – this allows individual key workers to book a test directly themselves.

Additional Procedures

Main entrance

Please do not queue under the covered area. Stay at the bottom of the slope by the brick wall.

There will be a queuing system please join the end at a 2 metre distance. DO NOT bypass the queue to go into the pre-school. Please wait your turn.

Parents/Carers

Only parents who are symptom free and or have completed the required isolation periods will be able to drop off or collect their child.

Parents will not be permitted to enter the building.

Only 1 adult per family to drop off/collect child

When parents are waiting to drop off or collect their child, social distancing should be maintained

Parents should not stay after drop off or collection to chat to other parents in the pre-school grounds, even at 2m distance

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



Parents to drop their children at the pre-school gate/ entrance and the staff will take them into the pre-school to help eliminate further risk of any infection being brought into the pre-school.

Parents should not leave travel accessories including buggies, car seats, scooters, bikes at the setting premises

Handwashing

The staff will wash their hands on arrival and will follow strict hygiene routine throughout the day.

The children will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water more often than they normally would, as well as using the hand sanitizer displayed in all rooms on arrival and departure.

Westwood kitchen remains closed at the present time. Please ensure you provide a packed lunch for your child.

Meal times

Children will eat their lunches with their small group and allocated staff.

Parents will need to provide individual snack items for their child in a container that the child is able to open themselves

Staff will ensure that the children do not share utensils, glasses etc during meal times

Packed lunches

We ask you pack only products which can be opened easily as children struggle with some items such as frubes and little pots.

Please ensure your child can be totally independent with their lunch.

Remember all fruit such as grapes and blueberries and also cheese must be cut into tiny pieces to avoid choking.

We discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, sweet drinks and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



Children's daily requirements

All children to wear short sleeve tops to make the increase in hand washing easier

Parents to ensure that their child's bag contains enough spare clothes/ underwear, nappies, cream & wipes, where appropriate, to last for the whole day or session attended.

The pre-school will only use items provided by the parent.

If it is sunny please apply once per day sun cream e.g. P20 to your child's skin at home before you bring them in, cover their shoulders with a t-shirt.

Sharing providers

If your child attends more than one preschool, nursery or childminder, parents will be asked to choose only one setting to enable their bubble group to be kept as small as possible to prevent the spread of the virus between settings.

Unwell Children

If we consider your child is unwell and displaying some of the COVID symptoms (e.g. fever), just to be on the safe side, we will ask you to keep them at home for 7 days. If the symptoms do not develop further by the end of this period, they can come back to pre-school.

Emergency Contacts

Parents must ensure all of the emergency contacts are up to date and are able to collect children in the event of an emergency or they become ill.

Parents must be able to collect children within 30 minutes of receiving a telephone call.

play-to-learn

MONTESSORI NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS



Advice for Parents, Carers and Families

And the most important...exercise good hygiene procedures!

1. Wash your and your child's hands regularly using hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds
2. Avoid touching your and your child's face
3. Use tissues when coughing and sneezing and dispose of safely.

Catch it, Kill it, Bin it!

Additional information for parents/carers

We have completed a setting risk assessment and provided new guidelines to all our staff.

We have employed a specialist cleaning company who have deep cleaned the setting prior to reopening and they will provide a monthly deep sanitiser application to the setting during this pandemic.

We have reduced our available resources and will be cleaning items and rotating on a daily basis to ensure increase hygiene between usage.

We will continue to clean up during the day as usual and at the end of the day complete a thorough clean.

Equipment such as blankets, soft toys, dough, water, sand etc. will be limited and only single use by each child

The setting COVID-19 Operational Plan and Risk Assessment will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary as we adapt to the 'new' normal.

All our current policies and safeguarding procedures are still maintained as standard.