16/07/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Full re-opening of Early Years Provision**

I hope you are all well and that you are adjusting to the complexities of the easing of lockdown. The reported number of falling cases of Covid-19 is encouraging and we are looking forward to fully re-opening to all of our children in September for the new academic year of 2020/2021. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our children and families. I apologise for the length of this letter, but it important to me that you have as much information as possible.

Last week, the Government released official guidance on the further re-opening of schools and Nurseries in September, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key points. It is important to note that the Nursery has been open to up to 32 children since 1st June, so many of these measures are already in place.

As always, the safety of our children, families and staff members remains to be our number one priority and we are working hard behind the scenes to put measures in place in line with the latest Government guidance. As the situation continues to evolve through the summer, the official Government guidance will be adapted to reflect this and we will follow this closely and make changes where necessary. I will inform you of any such changes at the **end of August**. It is also important to note that there will be ‘phased’ approach, so where procedures and approaches may appear quite ‘stringent’ we can loosen them as confidence grows and guidance changes.

**Infection Control**

**Prevention**

* Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
* Pupils, family members, staff and others adults should not attend school if they have COVID symptoms or have tested positive in the past 7 days.
* Anyone developing such symptoms during the Nursery day will be sent home, must isolate for 7 days and should arrange a test. Other members of the household (including siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms
* If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or high temperature, or has a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell will be sent home and advised to follow Government ‘Stay at home’ guidance.
* Children unwell with symptoms in Nursery awaiting collection will be moved, if possible to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision. If this is not possible, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people (E.g The outdoor wooden gazebo)
* Any member of staff who has helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves.
* Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual: Staff and pupils must clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from break, when they change rooms, before and after eating and at the end of the day. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.
* Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach:
* Public Health currently does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools, although this evidence will be kept under review.
* We have enhanced cleaning, including cleaning of communal spaces and frequently touched surfaces.
* We will minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible. Children will be in their Nursery room ‘bubbles’ and we will keep the rooms apart where possible. To begin with, the Nursery has been advised to adhere to this strictly. The Nursery will be taking advice on this as the term progresses. Children who have complex or close contact needs will receive education care and support as normal.
* Use of staffrooms and shared areas will be carefully managed to maintain social distancing where possible
* Face coverings should be removed by children and staff wearing them on arrival to Nursery.
* Specialists, clinicians, therapists and other support staff for pupils with SEND will be able to provide interventions as usual. This may mean the mixing of children in very small controlled groups, adhering to additional handwashing guidelines.
* Nursery equipment will be cleaned frequently and always in between groups or to be rotated to allow them to be left unused for 48 hours (72 for plastics) between use by different classes. Reading books will be wiped when returned to school.
* Malleable activities (Play dough, gloop, shaving foam, ice, rice tray activities): We will begin with individual water trays being tipped out and sanitised between uses and implemented outdoors wherever possible.   Other materials will be risk assessed with no sharing of play dough for example but will be phased back as confidence grows.
* Carpet areas: we will use markers to identify ‘their spot’ with only up to 15 children and 1 metre spaced.

**Response to any infection**

Measures that will be followed in every case where relevant:

Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. All families must:

* Be ready and willing to book a test if displaying symptoms.
* Provide details of anyone you have been in close contact with if you are tested positive with Covid-19 or if asked by Test and Trace.
* Self-isolate if you have been in contact with someone who develops symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19.

Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community:

* We will contact the local health protection team if we are aware that someone has attended school and has tested positive for Covid-19.
* Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.
* If we have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness where Covid-19 is suspected, we will continue to work with our local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

**Guidance for those who are Shielding**

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on the 1st of August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of Covid-19.

**Hot Nursery lunches**

FIGS will be providing hot lunches from the beginning of term. They will comply with Government guidance for food businesses on coronavirus. Please email Sue to order .

**Travelling to Nursery**

All families are encouraged to walk to school/ Nursery if possible. **Only use a car if absolutely necessary.** Although sustainable travel includes cycling, our risk assessment cannot allow bikes on the school site at this current time**.** The village carpark and village green and surrounding areas are not designed for modern car-use, so there will be increased pressure due to our own car park capacity being reduced as we are using it as an entrance (See below). Please do not drop your child on the yellow zig-zags. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support and co-operation in this safety matter.

**Beginning and end of the Nursery day**

We have given much thought to the following; please note that we may need to change procedures if we do not feel they are effective. Governors will be supporting the headteacher, Nursery manager, parents/carers and pupils in following these procedures.

Due to the increase of pupils attend Curry Rivel Primary School we will use both the front and rear water street entrance. This will be identified in your confirmation email.

* Only **one** family member allowed to drop off/collect
* You **must** adhere to you booked slot
* Parents should follow social-distancing guidelines when arriving and should leave children at the gates / door where a member of staff will be available. Parents will not be allowed to stay in the playground talking to other parents. **No parents to be allowed in building or to gather at school gates.**
* To reduce log-jam, double gates at front and rear of school to be opened with clear IN and OUT signs. Also small side gates to be opened as well as back gates (From car park). It is important that ‘the flow’ is maintained.
* Parents with siblings at school should drop oldest sibling first
* Clear lines and marks on ground to direct you and there will be reminders of 1 metre social distancing for parents.
* Messages should be given to the office via phone/email not to the member of staff on duty
* If wet, please apply same measures and same timings.

**Staggered times**

Your booked session times have been confirmed via email along with where you should drop-off and collect. It is **vital** that you only drop and collect at your allocated session time, arriving late may result in us asking you to wait.

**New children starting Nursery**

Visits to Nursery with prospective parents will happen at weekends for the foreseeable future.

**Curriculum**

We are planning our ‘themes’ for the autumn term, to excite our children and to re-engage them. Details of the autumn curriculum will be shared with you at the beginning of the new term.

It should be noted that inducting our children into the new routines, procedures and rules will also take time, so the pace and intensity of ‘the Nursery day’ will take time to be re-established.

It is important to note that if the current situation alters and there are any significant changes to the official guidance, we will ensure you informed accordingly. I do not plan to update you throughout the but do expect to hear from us at the end of August. Please make sure that you notify us immediately if there are any changes to your contact details to ensure we can get any important updates to you in a timely manner. Unfortunately, we remain in uncertain times and it is impossible to predict the future, however I am very hopeful that if the infection rate continues to drop as it has been doing, we can look forward to opening our doors once again to all children. The support we have received from our families has been nothing short of amazing; this has been very much appreciated at this time. Thank you.

Best Wishes

Hollie Westlake  Anne Gillard

Nursery Manager  Deputy Nursery Manager