

Welcome to Summer term 2022

The term begins on Tuesday 19th April.

This is how we roll...

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the nursery has had to introduce a number of operational changes into how we do things to enable us to remain open. The government guidance has been relaxed recently, but we also need to satisfy our own risk assessments and therefore monitor all our practices and constantly review them, especially as the local schools have had a high number of cases and we share siblings with them.

All of these new procedures are to enable us to keep our children, their families and staff safe and reduce the contamination risk. Please be patient and adapt with us, I thank you in advance for all your support, as we navigate our way through this new 'normal'. This newsletter is to answer questions, from drop off to collection and everything in between!

I will endeavour to keep you informed and updated by email/Facebook or our Website.

The following operational information supersedes any previous info and has been put into action due to the current situation of Covid 19. Please read the Covid Contingency plan for full details.

Summer is here!

The weather is being very British, with no two days the same!

Please ensure your child is ready for whatever the weather decides to do. So, they can enjoy the outside area accordingly.

If it's forecast to be sunny, please ensure your child has had sun cream applied before they come into nursery, I will be checking at the nursery gate. We do have 'emergency' sun cream here for you to apply, if you have forgotten, however staff will not be applying it. You will need to apply the cream before you leave your child in our care. Please send your child in to nursery with either a long-sleeved top/cardigan every day, so we can cover arms and shoulders during the hottest times of the day, to protect delicate skin. Sensible clothing for play is also essential.

Drop off

We will be using our front door for drop off, line up ready for the door to be opened. Remember to socially distance and be ready to hand your child over to myself or Laura Evamy at the door.

A mask is now optional, but we will reinstate mask wearing, at short notice, if necessary.

We are still not admitting Parent/carers into the building, so get ready for a swift kiss and cuddle at the door. Your child will then be handed to another member of staff to stow their belongings and wash their hands, before they enter the hall to play.

Children may be unsettled at drop off. If this is the case with your child, please be available on your mobile, if your child is very unsettled, we will ring you and bring their session to an end early.

Lunchboxes & Drinks bottles

You will need to provide your child with a drink bottle & lunch box, snack boxes/bags - NAME EVERYTHING!!! Lunchboxes & bottles have to be wiped, before we take them into the nursery kitchen, so easy to wash/wipe boxes are vital!

Bottles can be filled with weak squash/water/juice (no fizzy drinks) and we will replenish them with water when necessary.

The nursery will also provide the children with milk at snack times, if they wish.

It's getting warmer. It is vital that ice packs are placed in the lunch boxes to keep the food fresh, as we don't refrigerate the lunches.

We have a strict order we encourage the children to eat their lunches.

- 1. Sandwich/wrap/pasta/ savoury item**
- 2. Fruit/veg**
- 3. Dairy e.g. cheese/yogurt etc.**
- 4. We finish with any other items provided e.g. crisps/biscuits etc.**

Snack

WE ARE A NUT FREE NURSERY, PLEASE TAKE CARE TO READ THE INGREDIENTS OF ANY ITEMS YOU'RE PROVIDING.

The children have a snack mid-morning and mid-afternoon, so if your child is in nursery all day, they will require TWO snacks.

We recommend a fruit or vegetable-based snack e.g. carrots sticks/sliced peppers or grapes/berries. If you want to provide a whole piece of fruit e.g. apple, we are happy to cut it up for your child if they need help. We also allow cereal based foods e.g. dry Cheerios/breadsticks etc.

Snacks should be one of the options above, not sweet biscuits/cake treat based. This 'treat' could be an option in their main lunchbox (if applicable) However, we encourage all other items to be eaten first before the 'treat.

Please remember we don't allow any sweets or chocolates, for either snack time of lunch time.

Nursery environment changes

We are keeping a lot of our changes at the moment. As we feel this attention to cleanliness and detail have helped us remain Covid free. This still include no soft furnishings and carpets along with soft/plush teddies (unless these are quarantines for 3 days) same rules apply to dressing up, so it's kept to a minimal. We will also encourage the children to access the table top activities in small groups. We will be accessing the outside area throughout the day, as much as possible, so plenty of fresh air. We ventilate the building to minimise the risk associated with Covid and indoor environments. We will still be ensuring there is lots of hand washing at every transition.

Enhanced cleanliness

The activities of the day will be interspersed with regular hand washing and cleaning of resources/toys/equipment (inside & out) to reduce the risk of contamination. At the end of each day all resources are sterilised/cleaned or quarantined ready for the next day or their next use. Every day all areas are washed, including furniture, foam mats, floors, all tables & chairs, storage units, toilets, kitchen and high touch areas. **Your donations of cleaning products have been amazing. Your support has meant that I haven't needed to order/buy any products for weeks!!! This is a huge help to the nursery - thank you, it's much appreciated.** We also have professional cleaners in, during the week, to keep all main areas clean and sanitary.

Items from home

It is imperative that items of clothing, coats, bags, hats etc. are clearly named to ensure items are taken home by the correct child. We will not be allowing toys from home. We will be supplying all the children with a large clear plastic zippy wallet for their art work, so we can send it home each week, filled with masterpieces! Painting aprons for arts & craft activities, are not available to eliminate the risk of cross contamination. Therefore, please dress your child in old clothes, which you don't mind getting messy. Our paints and glue are washable, but just in case!

Child's communication book

The children will also be supplied with a communication book, which will be a useful tool, if you wish to inform us of any news, get in the habit of looking for messages from the staff too. Examples of useful news: restless night, upset/cross words at home, family activity news etc. Staff will initial any news you have added, to show acknowledgement. The staff will also use this to alert you, of your child's session/day. Please can you sign staff messages too, so we know you have seen them. You are always welcome to inform us at the door of any quick hand over messages you wish to be passed onto their key practitioner or ring the nursery office 01428 656086, if you wish to discuss something in more detail.

Illness

If a child or staff member is taken ill at nursery, with any Covid 19 symptoms, they will be kept in isolated until they can be collected or leave. We will contact you or your child's emergency contacts and they will need to be collected immediately!

We are now expected to follow the Covid 19 Response: Living with Covid 19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

We need to remain sensible to enable us to remain open. Although you are no longer required by law to self-isolate if you test positive, we still ask that your child does not attend nursery, so as to help reduce the chance of infecting other children or staff.

This applies to staff, children and their families.

We still require children & staff to take LFD tests on day 5 after their positive Covid result.

Those who receive two negative test results in daily succession can then return to nursery. If you don't wish to get your child to undertake a LFT, we ask they remain absent from nursery for a full 10 days.

It will be at the nursery discretion, if we feel a child is showing symptoms, we may refuse admittance to the nursery.

If you are in doubt, please keep your child at home and contact the nursery. The nursery will always remain on the cautious side, due to the serious nature of this virus and the implications an outbreak could have on the rest of the nursery, for staffing etc. The staff are considering how/if we continue LFTs. This will be under constant review throughout the term.

Remember we are essentially a bubble, so if there is a positive outbreak of the virus, it's most likely to affect all of us!

The Covid situation is continuing to affect us all, here at nursery and in our daily lives too. Thank you for your support as we try and navigate through this new phase of 'living with Covid'.

Fees and absences

Due to circumstances which are out of the nursery's control, we will not be offering fee refunds or session replacements for sessions missed due to a child's absence for suspected Covid 19 absence, or isolation absence due to their family isolations, closure due to advice/notice from PHE (public Health England) Government lockdowns or localised lockdowns/restrictions due to an increase in cases of Covid nationally or locally.

However, if the nursery has to close due to staffing ratios, we will implement our Contingency plan and reimburse parents fees for sessions missed, if necessary.

I'm sure you can fully appreciate for the nursery to remain open we still have wages and bills to pay, so we wouldn't be a viable concern, if we reimbursed for every situation. Therefore, we ask for your understanding and support in this matter. Please contact me, if you require clarity in this matter.

Child collection

At going home time we will get the children prepared and wash their hands and be will ready with their belongings, for parent/carer arrival, at our normal finish time of 3.30pm. Please collect from the main gate (car park)

When it is time, Laura or I will unlock the gate and once we can see you, bring your child out to the adult collecting.

The usual child collection rules apply, if you don't inform us that someone else is collecting your child, they will not be released to them!

These nursery procedures have bedded in and the staff and children have adapted to this routine well. We have continually needed to tweak, but this is the update for now.



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