

Dear families,

We've all settled back into the Pre School routine really well since returning after Half Term, with some fabulous activities such as Disney Week, People Who Help Us and Remembrance. Coming up this half term we have Space Week and Fairy Tales all before Christmas!

COVID-19 Update

We have now entered a second Lockdown in England, however, as previously emailed we are going to remain open as usual, so you can still access the services we provide. Of course, we have still got lots of COVID-19 restrictions in place and these will continue for as long as they are needed. It does still mean we only have toys and equipment out that can be easily cleaned between use and all soft furnishings have been put away. For further information please see our updated (again) COVID-19 risk assessment which is also attached to this email. This risk assessment will be updated as and when different risks arise and you will be informed, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

As per the previous email I sent, Face coverings are now mandatory when you are on the Pre School premises (unless you are exempt). The Pre School premises begins and ends at the bottom gate. We are asking you to wear these to help us do our best in lowering the risk of infection and to keep all families and staff. Again, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any questions etc.

Please can you ensure that your child has a bag of spare clothes at Pre School, the bag will only be returned if your child has needed to be changed, we then request that you please bring the bag back with another full change of clothes in the next time they attend Pre School. Please note the children will be outside whatever the weather!

I have to point out we cannot eliminate ALL risks, we cannot safely say that no one will come into contact with the virus but we are doing everything we can to help 'control the virus'.

As always as we change into Autumn and Winter it is inevitable that children will develop common colds, runny noses etc. We are happy, provided your child is well enough that they can still attend Pre School, however, if your child develops one or more of the Covid-19 symptoms then you will need to inform us (or collect your child if symptoms have developed whilst in our care), self-isolate and book a test. All advice for parents during the covid-19 pandemic can be found on www.gov.uk or please see a member of staff who will guide you.

Government Guidance and Laws

As I am sure you are aware new Guidance and Laws are coming out all the time with regards to Covid 19, please check www.gov.uk for all the most up to date information. As a Pre School we are asking everyone to please stick to these rules and laws for the safety of everyone's wellbeing, this is why we ask everyone to sign the Covid 19 Risk Assessment. We reserve the right to refuse entry to any children if we suspect Covid Laws are being broken and children are not safe. We are also able to report our concerns to authorities.

Here are just a couple of examples from the Government Website:

2. Meeting others safely

In general, you must not meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with one other person.

You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a face covering).

You must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble.

A support bubble is where a household with one adult joins with another household. Households in that support bubble can still visit each other, stay overnight in each other's households, and visit outdoor public places together.

You can exercise or visit a public outdoor space:

- by yourself
- with the people you live with
- with your support bubble
- or, when on your own, 1 person from another household

Children under 5, and up to two carers for a person with a disability who needs continuous care, are **not** counted towards the gatherings limit on two or more people meeting outside.

You cannot meet people in a private garden, unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them.

Meeting others and care

You can leave home to visit people in your support bubble, or to provide informal childcare for children aged 13 and under as part of a childcare bubble, to provide care for vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or for respite care where that care is being provided to a vulnerable person or a person with a disability, or is a short break in respect of a looked after child. People can also exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place (see section

What a childcare bubble is

A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to a child or children aged 13 or under. They can provide the childcare in either or both of the homes from the 2 households. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered. Your childcare bubble has to remain the same people.

What a support bubble is

A support bubble is a close support network between a household with only one adult or a household with one adult and one or more people who were under the age of 18 on 12 June 2020 in the home (known as a single-adult household) and one other household of any size.

This is called making a 'support bubble'.

Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in a single household with people from the other household. It means you can have close contact with that household as if they were members of your own household.

Once you make a support bubble, you cannot change who is in your bubble.

Self-isolate for 14 days

If you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app:

- self-isolate for 14 days from the day you were last in contact with the person who tested positive for coronavirus – as it can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear
- do not leave your home for any reason – if you need food or medicine, order it online or by phone, or ask friends and family to drop it off at your home
- do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for essential care
- try to avoid contact with anyone you live with as much as possible
- people you live with do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms
- people in your support bubble do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms

If you live with someone at higher risk from coronavirus, try to arrange for them to stay with friends or family for 14 days.

If you have to stay in the same home together, read about how to avoid spreading coronavirus to people you live with.

If you get symptoms of coronavirus

If you get any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) while you're self-isolating:

- get a test as soon as possible
- anyone you live with must self-isolate until you've been tested and received your result
- anyone in your support bubble should self-isolate if you've been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started

What to do when you get your test result

If you test negative (the test did not find coronavirus):

- keep self-isolating for the rest of the 14 days from when you were last in contact with the person who has coronavirus – as you could get symptoms after being tested
- anyone you live with can stop self-isolating if they do not have symptoms
- anyone in your support bubble can stop self-isolating if they do not have symptoms

If you test positive (you have coronavirus):

- self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started – even if it means you're self-isolating for longer than 14 days
- anyone you live with must self-isolate for 14 days from when your symptoms started
- anyone in your support bubble should self-isolate for 14 days from when your symptoms started

Read more about how long to self-isolate.

If you do not get symptoms of coronavirus

If you do not get any symptoms of coronavirus while self-isolating:

- you can stop self-isolating after 14 days
- you do not need to have a test

Speech and Language

Due to the pandemic the Speech and Language waiting list is very long (potentially over a year) so if you have any slight concern regarding your child's speech or language we are asking you to let us know so we can make the referral asap. If within this time your child's speech/language improves then we can withdraw them from the list, but it is better to have them on the list than to wait and the list become longer. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff for more information.

2 Year Progress Reviews

All children between the age of 2years and 3years are invited to a 2 year progress review with the Health Visiting Team. For these reviews at Pre School we also complete a review form for you to take along to the appointment. We would be grateful if you could let us know when your appointment comes through so we can set time aside to complete the form and go through it with you.

Parent Consultations

Usually at this time of year we would be looking to invite you into the setting for Parent's Evening, however, once again due to the Pandemic we are unable to have anyone in. Now we are using Tapestry all of the information about your child should be straight to your phone/tablet etc, such as observations, care diaries etc. Within the next week we are going to upload your child's Summative Report, which will just give you a guideline of the age bracket they are currently working in. If we had any concerns, we will have already been speaking to you about the way forward. Please do keep an eye out for these and once you've had a look if there is anything you would like to discuss or have a Parent consultation via telephone call then please let a member of staff know and we can book an appropriate time.

Christmas Performance

I know it is only November, but Christmas will be here before you know it and a performance takes plenty of practice! This year's performance is going to be a bit different as we are unable to have a live audience! However, do not fear, as always, we have a plan!!! There will be a letter coming to you shortly with all the details on. Please keep an eye out for this as it will double up as a consent form as we will need parent's consent for the children to participate in what we would like to do!

Sharing Information

If your child attends another setting (whether funding is shared or not) please could you let us know the setting details and the days your child attends there. As part of working in partnership we fill in a 'sharing information form' each term to share where your child is and how they are getting on at our setting. This is shared with you as parents too, but it just helps to ensure everyone is working collectively in the best interests of your child. Likewise, if your child has moved to us from another setting, we would also be grateful for their information so we can gain more information too.

Facebook

Don't forget if you are on Facebook to give our Pre School page a like and follow us for different activity ideas and to keep up to date with information and of course photos of your children's days at Pre School!

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team if you have any questions,

Many thanks

Leanne and The Pre School Team