

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...AND A FEW MORE....!

Please find below the answers to some commonly asked questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at preschoolcommittee@live.co.uk if you have any further queries.

Children

1) Are there any circumstances in which my child should not attend?

Children must be 100% fit to attend Pre School. Although we would not expect children to be kept off for the full length of a cold, we do ask you to keep them at home if they have a streaming nose and are obviously under the weather.

If we have any health concerns about a child, parents/carers will be contacted and their child must be picked up without question and asap.

Children must be COVID symptom free or have completed isolation period (according to government guidelines) to attend the setting

Can the setting refuse my child attending Pre School?

Yes - In the event that a parent/carer insists on a child attending the setting, the setting can take the decision to refuse the child if in our reasonable judgement we consider that it is necessary to protect the other children and staff from possible infection with Covid-19. This decision would be taken after careful consideration in light of up to date information from the government and Public Health England.

Can children with underlying health conditions attend the setting?

D of E guidance states that all children who are clinically vulnerable should attend their setting "unless they are one of a very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their clinician not to attend.

If my child is identified as a close contact of a positive case and is awaiting the results of a PCR test, can they attend the setting whilst awaiting results?

Although government guidance states that they can attend, we would ask that parents take a sensible approach and keep their children at home until the result is received.

2) What happens if my child attends another setting or childminder?

It is currently fine for children to attend more than one setting, however, this is under constant review as per government guidelines

3) Will children be socially distanced?

It is impossible to socially distance children of this age, indeed the government guidelines recognise this. Although we are now allowed to gather children together in larger groups, we still space them out as much as possible and ensure good ventilation at all times.

4) My child is very anxious at the moment, if they become upset will they get a hug?

Of course they will – all staff understand that children will need emotional support at this time.

Adults in the setting

1) How do I know that adults won't spread illness to my child?

The same as for children – staff cannot attend unless they are 100% fit and COVID symptom free or having completed the mandatory isolation period. They will be asked to present Manager/Directors with evidence of at least one negative test result before they can return to work.

In spite of government guidelines, if staff are awaiting the results of a PCR, then they should remain at home until the result is received. In the event of a negative test, they can return to work as long as double vaccinated. If the test is positive, then they must isolate for the required period.

In line with current government guidelines, if a member of staff is double vaccinated and has been in contact with someone who tests positive, they will be instructed to test every day for 7 days and as long as no symptoms and testing negative, they will be allowed to work.

Visitors will be kept to a minimum, must be symptom free, masked and hand sanitise on entry. They must also social distance themselves from the children.

2) What about us parents – how can we help?

Only parents who are symptom free and or have completed required isolation periods will be able to drop off or collect their child. We would also ask that if you are awaiting test results, then you do not accompany your child to pre school.

Early drop off – Parents to wait outside main door to hand over children to waiting staff

Main morning drop off – A one way system will be operating through the main garden wherein you will place your children's bags and coats on the racks which will be on the decking, and hand your children over to waiting staff. Parents are expected to social distance themselves please.

Lunchtime pick ups – Main door again – please wait outside and we will pass your children out to you 1 by 1. These are staggered timings anyway between 12 and 1. Please maintain social distance whilst you are waiting

Main pick up (3-4pm) – Main door again – please wait outside and we will release your children to you. This is a naturally staggered timing. Please maintain social distance whilst you are waiting.

If there is inclement weather at pick up and we have to place bag/coat trolleys in the foyer, then please ensure masks are worn and that parents enter the foyer once at a time.

3) What if I need to talk to a member of staff?

Staff will always find time to speak to parents. If possible, we would be grateful if you would phone between 8-9 and 3-4 which are our quieter times, which will mean that staff's concentration will be on the children rather than anything else and will also mean that we

can keep the drop off/pick up system flowing. Emails can be sent at any time and we will respond asap.

If you need to speak to a member of staff in person (or they need to speak to you), at drop off or collection, then they may ask you to wait until all children have been dealt with so they can ensure social distancing and confidentiality.

Hygiene, Health and Safety

1) Can you tell me about hygiene procedures?

Handwashing – All children and staff must wash hands upon arrival at Pre School and frequently during the day after activities and before snack/ lunch time.

Cleaning – the setting is professionally cleaned every night and will automatically receive another deep clean every half term. All, surfaces, toys , and equipment are cleaned and sanitised at the end of each day. Any toys which are difficult to clean efficiently are quarantined for at least 72 hours before further use. All touch points e.g. door handles will be wiped frequently. Toilets and the changing mat are sanitised frequently throughout the day.

Waste disposal – All waste will be disposed of in hygienic and safe manner

Risk Assessment – Risk assessments will be available to parents should they wish to see them and should be updated regularly.

Messy Play – Messy play is back on the agenda, however, it is done in a controlled way with playdough and other materials being disposed off at the end of each day.

PPE – Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early years settings to protect against COVID transmission. PPE will continue to be worn as normal for nappy changing and administration of first aid.

Toys – Toys on offer to the children will be those which can be easily cleaned i.e. mainly plastic

Toys from home – Unless there is a specific toy which is **essential** to their wellbeing, personal toys should be kept at home.

Fees and Funding

1) Will my 30 hour funding be affected?

Temporary changes have been made to the 30 hours free entitlement so that all eligible parents, including critical workers, are not disadvantaged during the coronavirus outbreak.

Specifically, parents who will not meet the minimum income threshold (16 hours per week at National Minimum/Living Wage) due to lower earnings as a direct result of coronavirus will be treated as meeting that test during the outbreak. This will apply only to parents who need to apply for, or reconfirm, their 30 hours place during the outbreak this year.

2) If I normally pay for sessions, will I have to pay if I choose not to send my child to school?

The Directors have taken the decision, that for the moment, fees will be charged to those choosing not to attend. The Directors reserve the right to change this decision at any point.

Please note that we would prefer not to have cash/cheque payments, - as far as possible, any payment should be made via bank transfer

Operational Changes

1) Are timings changing?

No, times will run as normal

Do my children have to bring anything different?

No – we have returned to offering snack during the morning session

2) Will staff still be doing Learning Records?

Yes they will

3) If a child or staff member tests positive, will you close the setting?

No, not unless instructed to by NHS Track and Trace