



## COVID-19

### Information for Parents on Pre-School Reopening, June 2020

This information sheet sets out the changes required safely to reopen the Pre-School from the beginning of June. It is informed by the following Government guidance including but not limited to:

- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings
- Opening schools for more children and young people: initial planning framework for schools in England
- COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings

The Government guidance sets out four areas of control which, taken together, will create a “safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced”<sup>1</sup>. These controls are:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell with coronavirus symptoms
- More frequent hand washing and good respiratory hygiene (‘catch it, kill it, bin it’)
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Minimising contact and mixing

The information below sets out the steps Pre-School will take within these areas of control.

### Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell

**If your child is unwell, with symptoms of the virus, please keep them at home.**

Government guidance suggests that young children often have less severe symptoms, or symptoms that can be difficult to spot. If you think your child is unwell, or ‘under the weather’, and it is possible they may have coronavirus, please keep them at home.

Children must remain at home for seven days; until they have had a negative test; or until they are better.

In line with our existing policies, we may not admit your child to Pre-School if we think they are unwell on arrival.

**If you think you are unwell, please do not come to Pre-School.** Your family must self-isolate for at least fourteen days, or until you have a negative test.

If a child begins to show symptoms, or what we believe may be symptoms, at Pre-School they will be looked after by a member of staff and you will be asked to come and collect them. Staff will take your child away from other children and, if it is safe to do so, they may take them into the office space until you arrive. Staff are advised to remain at least two meters away from a child with symptoms unless they are wearing personal protective equipment.

In line with government guidance, staff will *not* be taking your child’s temperature on arrival. Staff will *not* be wearing facemasks in the setting (subject to the conditions above). Children are *not* expected to wear face masks at Pre-School. If your child wears a face mask to the setting, please remove it on arrival and take it home with you.

Staff exhibiting symptoms will not be attending the Pre-School.

### Travel to and from Pre-School

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<sup>1</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

In line with Government guidance, please try to avoid using public transport to come to and from Pre-School.

## **Minimising Contact and Mixing**

To enable social distancing, we are introducing different arrangements for drop-off and pick-up and within session times.

### **Drop-off and Pick-Up**

Please remain two meters apart from other families when waiting to come into Pre-School/at home time.

One parent/adult only to bring/collect your child

There will be a one-way system – entry through the main door as usual, drop off at the Pre-School door, and then exit through the iron gate

In the morning, we will greet your child at the main door to the Pre-School hall and will take them inside. Parents are asked not to come into the entrance area. Staff will take their coats and bags, and will take your child to wash their hands before going into the main hall.

At home time, please wait for your child outside the main door of the Pre-School. We will bring your child, their coat and any bags, to you at the door. Please move away as quickly as possible.

Staff are unable to have long conversations at the door – if you need a quick word, that is fine, but longer discussions may need to take place over the phone or via video conferencing at an arranged time.

### **Minimising Home/Pre-School contact**

Please bring your child's book bag on the first session they attend each week. We will send it home with your child on the last day of they attend each week. Any work your child produces at Pre-School will be put in book bags and kept until your child brings home their book bag.

Please bring your child's change bag in on the first day they attend. We will keep the change bags at Pre-School. We will send home soiled clothing, sealed in two plastic bags, for washing. Please provide new changes of clothes as appropriate. We will continue to provide Pre-School spare clothing. If your child comes home wearing Pre-School clothing please wash it and return it. We will not use clothing for 72 hours after it has been returned.

Please discourage your child from bringing in toys from home. We know this is often a popular activity, but for the time being, we are suspending the 'spotty bag'. If your child does have a toy with them in the morning, please take it home with you.

The puzzle library and the home-Pre-School book scheme are suspended for the time being. We will continue to suggest maths activities, songs and stories you might try at home, through the weekly Bulletin.

We are hoping to be able to offer a craft activity perhaps once a week – to allow 72 hours between the making and sending the work home. All resources used will be from the Pre-School, or will have been in the Pre-School for at least 72 hours prior to their use.

We will be in touch with parents about new arrangements for supporting school transitions and for the parent consultations we usually hold at the end of June each year.

All social events that would usually take place this half term and stay and plays are cancelled. We are working out how we may capture the best of these experiences within the activities we offer at Pre-School this half term. We will update parents on our plans in due course.

We will be maintaining or increasing our use of email to circulate information. Please keep checking your inboxes, and let us know if your email address changes.

### **Small group working**

We will be dividing the children into small groups, which will remain as consistent as possible. Subject to numbers attending, we expect there to be between 6 -10 children in each group. We will organise the groups based on known friendships and allocated key persons.

Each group will have access to one area of the Pre-School at a time, including snacks and outdoors.

Carpet time (morning welcome, songs and story) will be reduced and each group of children will distance from the others. If numbers are high, carpet time may be suspended.

We know it is difficult to 'socially distance' very young children. In line with the guidance, we aim to minimise mixing by ensuring that children experience the majority of the session time within their small group of children, working with a member of staff.

Subject to the individual circumstances, staff will still reassure your child and comfort them if they fall over or are upset.

### **Hand washing and respiratory hygiene**

We will support the children to wash or clean their hands more frequently as they move between areas of the Pre-School; on arrival; before and after snacks; and before going home.

Children will be encouraged not to touch their faces.

Where it may not be practical to wash children's hands (for example, if they are outside), we hope to be able to clean their hands with sanitizer. Parents are asked to give their permission for us to apply hand sanitizer. If it is not appropriate to use hand sanitizer, your child will be supported to wash their hands, acknowledging that this may mean they move between areas within the setting a little more frequently.

Children's tissues and used paper towels will be disposed of in lidded bins and hygienically removed.

### **Cleaning frequently touched surfaces**

Hard surfaces will be cleaned regularly, prior to opening and during the session.

Some toys and resources, which are hard to clean, may not be available.

Toys and resources will be divided so that each small group has access to clean supplies. Staff supervising the small group will help minimise sharing of resources between children, whilst continuing to support cooperative play.

Resources will be cleaned after use by each group. Where possible, resources will also be rotated on a 72 hour basis.

We are removing messy play, for the time being, but will try to provide sensory, tactile and investigative play ideas through the Virtual Pre-School Bulletin.

Subject to numbers attending, we hope to continue to provide dressing up perhaps once a week. Again, resources will be divided so that each small group has access to clean supplies and children will not be able to share costumes. All costumes, once worn, will be washed by staff. They will not be used again for at least 72 hours.

Toilet areas, sinks and, where appropriate, doors and door handles, will be regularly cleaned.

### **Snacks**

We will continue to provide snacks and drinks for children. Each small group will be able to have a snack at staggered times throughout the session. This will be managed by a member of staff to maintain hygiene standards.

We will keep this Information Sheet updated in the light of practice and Government advice. Parents will be informed of any updates.

**Version 1: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020**