**COVID 19 POLICY**

**This policy is to be used as a working practice document and this may change as further updates are received from local or national government.**

 **Pick up/Drop Off Procedures**

There are currently no restrictions on picking up and dropping off children at the nursery with regard to staggered start times or adults entering the nursery. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don’t normally meet. We therefore recommend the wearing of a face covering when inside the nursery building, such as when picking up your child at the end of the session.

**Reducing risks**

Children no longer have to be kept in bubbles or socially distance from each other

The policies below will minimise infection as much as is possible to do so.

No toys should be brought in from home.

All acceptable items from home such as coats and bags with a change of clothes must be clearly labelled. Items that are not labelled will be labelled by a member of staff using a permanent marker pen.

All resources, furnishings and equipment will be cleaned using detergent at the end of every session.

We will have a large supply of antibacterial gel, soap, disinfectant, gloves and antibacterial wipes. Staff will also have alcohol-based sanitiser and this will be kept away from the children. Children and staff will clean their hands regularly.

Staff will wear a mask and apron when changing children, either a nappy or a wet child.

We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.

Staff will take two lateral flow tests a week

**Illness/Positive cases**

If your child displays symptoms of COVID-19 including a sore throat, cough, high temperature or loss or change in their sense of smell or taste they must self-isolate for 10 days or 48 hours after the fever settles whichever is the longest, likewise for any member of the household who tests positive or has these symptoms. It is recommended they should take a PCR test if displaying these symptoms. If the PCR test is negative, they can return to preschool.

 If they are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19, they should self-isolate for 10 days starting from the day the test was taken. If symptoms then develop, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

The nursery should be contacted immediately if your child displays or tests positive for COVID-19 (01603 812362 during nursery hours or 07765 658137 out of hours. Please only use this mobile number for this purpose only).

If your child becomes ill whilst at the nursery, we will isolate them in the bar area or outdoors if feasible with a member of staff and contact you immediately so that you can collect them. We will ensure the room is ventilated and open a window. You will be advised to use the COVID-19 guidance for self-isolation. The staff member who waits with your child will wear a face mask, gloves and an apron. The area around the person with symptoms will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left.

Anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms should get a test and engage in the NHS Test and Trace process. All children can be tested, including children under 5.

**Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Likewise, any adult who has received two vaccinations (with a two-week period after their second vaccination) will no longer be required to self-isolate as a close contact. They are encouraged instead to take a PCR test as soon as possible. If the PCR test is positive, they should then follow self-isolation rules as above.

Children identified as close contacts can still attend the nursery (again we encourage children to take a PCR test). They should not be brought to or picked up from the nursery by a carer who has tested positive for COVID-19 during their self-isolation period.

Staff who are identified by Track and Trace as close contacts will still be able to attend work but should take a lateral flow test every day for 10 days from contact with a positive case.

Any positive lateral flow test should be confirmed by taking a PCR test as soon as possible. If the PCR test is negative this overrides the positive lateral flow test. Staff, children and their households should not attend nursery while waiting for confirmation of their lateral flow test by their PCR test.

**Outbreaks**

The nursery would contact the Local Outbreak Management Centre on 01603 223219. We will then contact the NCC Early Years Learning Team through their advice line, option 3 on 01603 222300. Ofsted would also be notified. Any advice on closure or self-isolation from the Outbreak management team will be followed.

The setting will keep a proportionate record of suspected/confirmed cases.

We also ask that your child does not attend the nursery if they have been given any medicine, eg Calpol or cough mixture, as it can mask the symptoms of COVID.

If the setting has to close for a period of time due to COVID-19 we will switch to an online approach for delivering the EYFS and staying in contact with our families.