

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

January 24th 2022 - As government guidance is starting to be relaxed as of Thursday 27th January, parents are welcomed back into the hall at 12.15pm to collect their children from the 25th January 2022. We are aware that there are COVID 19 cases within the community, therefore we require all who collect to wear masks unless exempt until further notice. As we are a small team, we need to remain cautious to keep the nursery from having to close due to staff sickness.

As COVID 19 is in the close community, we are asking for children to be kept at home if siblings have tested positive.

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 and antibacterial spray 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. If there is a positive case in the preschool, staff will lateral flow test daily for 10 days after a case is identified

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, a runny nose or headache they must self-isolate for 7 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 7 days starting from the day the test was taken. If symptoms then develop, they should restart the 7-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. On days 6 and 7 of the isolation period, LFDs should be taken 24 hours between tests. If they are both negative and there is no temperature, the isolation period can end.

The nursery should be contacted immediately if your child displays or tests positive for COVID-19 01603 812362 during nursery hours, (07918 929192 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 PCR 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 11 January 2022, 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 daily LFD tests for the week following. If the LFD test is positive, there is no need for a PCR test and 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 staff contacted by Track and Trace, who are not double vaccinated cannot attend work and must isolate for 10 days.

Any positive lateral flow test does not need to be confirmed by taking a PCR test as of the 11th January 2022.

Outbreaks

The nursery would contact the Local Outbreak Management Centre on 01603 223219 or using the form online if there are 5 or more or 10% or more confirmed cases in a group (children and staff) who are likely to have mixed closely in the previous 10 days. 10% or more of all staff have been confirmed as positive for COVID-19 in the previous 10 days; OR any positive case of COVID in a small setting (with a capacity of less than 20 including staff and children/young people) OR the setting has concerns about the operational running of the setting, the impact on education and learning or the impact on vulnerable pupils as a result of case numbers or if they are concerned for any other reason. Particularly where you are seeking additional advice or support. 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.