

Registered Charity No 702691

19th May 2020

Dear Parents

We hope you are all well and coping OK. We have loved receiving your gifts/treats, works of art, photos, and messages. For those parents who have completed our online survey thank you, your responses have been appreciated.

We are trying our very best to ensure that what we do in regards to offering childcare to more families as of 1st June is safe, fair and the best for everyone not just one or two so be respectful of the tough decisions we may have to take.

We fully understand how worried and concerned you are going to be following the governments advice that Early Years Settings should plan to return from 1st June. We have looked through the government’s advice for our sector and came up with some ways we can best put this into practice. We have included the links to the documents we have to follow at the bottom of this email.

You must understand with the best will in the world and whatever methods and practices we put in place it is impossible for children to socially distance from each other or the staff, we cannot and will not stay two meters apart. If your child needs a hug, they will receive one, but we will use our common sense. We cannot do our job from a distance. The staff will exercise judgement for the highest standard of safety and cleanliness at all times.

We believe the uptake to returning to nursery will be much lower than how many we had prior to the lockdown as parents weigh up their child’s safety against their education.

Below is a summary of the measures we will be trying to put into place to make sure our nursery is as safe as possible for everyone. These may sound harsh, but we are being completely honest with you and hope you appreciate that. This will allow you to make informed choices on whether to send your child back to nursery at this point. Rest assured that we will do everything we possibly can to make sure your child’s time at nursery is still as fun as possible but the safety of your child, yourself and your families and our staff and their families is paramount.

* We may have to introduce a temporary cap on the amount of children who return if the numbers wanting to return are high. Some children may be given priority over others in ways such as (but not limited to), those who move to Reception in September or those whose parents are working (working away from home will be given priority over those working from home or where one parent may still be at home). We will limit how many hours each child does.
* We will not be offering before and after school care to decrease the risk of cross infection.
* If your child attends more than one setting you will be asked to choose only one setting to enable their bubble to be kept as small as possible to prevent the spread of the virus between settings.
* Drop off and collection will be different to usual. Only one parent who is symptom free will be allowed onto the school grounds but will not be allowed into the nursery building. We now have a doorbell on the small wooden gate. On arrival to the setting you will ring the bell and a member of staff will open the door to speak to you and welcome your child in. Please always respect staff and distance yourself 2 meters away from them.
* We will sign your child in and out of the setting. If we complete an accident form for your child, this will be emailed over to you and you must reply to acknowledge receiving this. If your child suffers an accident at home you will be expected to email the details of the accident to the nursery, in place of completing an accident at home form.
* Wherever possible the same parent must drop off and collect from nursery.
* We may group children and give them a staggered start and finish time. Nobody is to enter the school playground and/or use the play equipment in there. Only arrive at nursery for your designated time slot, do not arrive earlier than your slot.
* Adults must stay 2 meters away from other adults and keep their child with them until they have been dropped off. Playing in the school yard will not be allowed.
* If a parent should be shielding at home, they should not drop off. Children who are extremely vulnerable should remain shielding at home and not return to nursery until further government notice advises. Vulnerable staff will remain at home shielding too.
* We may take temperatures of children and staff on arrival. Children should be symptom free of any illness. Please do not administer medication such as Calpol before bringing your child to nursery, if your child needs medication for a temperature they must stay at home and the whole family must then abide by the self-isolation guidelines.
* If anyone in the household displays any of the corona virus symptoms, for example, a temperature over 37.8, a persistent cough or loss of smell/taste then you must inform the nursery ASAP and the whole household will be expecting to follow the government self-isolation guidelines for 14 days.
* Children will be organised into small groups, keeping cohorts (bubbles) together with the same staff members. We cannot guarantee that your child will be in a ‘bubble’ with all their friends or their keyperson. Wherever possible we will endeavour to make sure that we do group some friends together and when possible with their keyperson.
* We will be outside the majority of the time regardless of the weather so please dress your child appropriately. If it is sunny please apply sun cream to their skin at home before you bring them in, cover their shoulders with a t-shirt so staff have as little time applying cream to your child should they require a top up. We request that you preferably use the 8-hour sun cream.
* Please send at least one set of spare clothes for your child to be left at nursery for the duration. This needs to be sent in a plastic bag. If your child needs to get changed while at nursery, we will return the soiled clothes and you can then bring in a further set of spare clothes.
* We will only be allowing packed lunches and we will try to seat children in the same groups they have been playing with and as far apart as possible.
* We will reflect and revise our decisions regularly as some decisions may not work or we may come up with a better way of doing something. This is all new to us, some of our tried and trusted measures cannot be done any more but we still must have strict safeguarding measures in place at all times.
* You must ensure all of your emergency contacts are up to date and are able to collect your child in the event of an emergency or they become ill. You must be able to collect your child within 30 minutes of receiving a telephone call.
* Children must not bring in any soft toys, blankets, toys, or anything other than their coat, spare change of clothes, sun cream, a plastic drinks bottle and a packed lunch if they need one. We are limiting how much comes into nursery. If your child requires a comforter then you can send ONE in with your child.
* If your child is staying for lunch, we ask you to send it in a plastic wipeable box or a plastic bag. Please pack only products which can be opened easily, they struggle with some items such as frubes and little pots. Please ensure your child can be as independent as possible with their lunch. Remember all fruit such as grapes and blueberries and also cheese must be cut into tiny pieces to avoid choking.
* Catch it, kill it, Bin it, and regular hand washing will remain our policy – please continue this at home. Also try the coughing into your elbow.
* We have removed a lot of resources and equipment such as blankets, soft toys, dough, sand etc. and have cleaned everything in sight. We will continue to clean up during the day as usual and at the end of the day do a thorough clean.
* If you, or anyone in your household, are seen to be breaking the current government guidelines, in regard to lockdown, your child will be excluded for a 14 day period.
* If there have been any changes to your child’s medical/allergy information during the lockdown period, please inform us by email.
* The setting will be closed to all visitors.
* We will continue to update and share activities, stories and songs via our Facebook page so do keep following us on there.

Please help us to care for your children in the safest way possible and follow the rules laid out.

**Would you let us know the following information by email as soon as possible please, if we do not hear back from you, we will make assumptions from what we know previously about your family circumstances:**

1: Would you like to bring your child back to nursery from June 1st? *You will not be frowned upon or penalised for a decision either way and you can change your mind at any time if your decision changes.*

2: Will both parents be returning to work away from the home?

3: Is one parent working from home?

4: Is there a parent at home not working?

5: Is your child or someone at home shielding?

6: Is there anything else you would like us to know?

At this point we must stress that the government will not confirm the go ahead for early years settings to reopen on 1st June until 28th May. We **cannot** guarantee that everyone wanting to return will be able to return as soon as 1st June. We **cannot** guarantee that you will be able to access your full hours as of 1st June.

The advice we have received so far from the government can be found using this links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Kind Regards

The Learning Tree Management Committee

