

Nursery Practice during COVID-19.

Carers, staff and children should not attend and stay away from nursery if unwell and self-isolate if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Please notify us if you, your child or anyone in your household have symptoms of COVID-19 PLEASE DO NOT COME TO NURSERY.

We have been planning how we can effectively provide a new way of working during coronavirus. This will mean we will need to change and adapt our practices in line with the government guidance. Some of the ways we can effectively provide a lower risk environment are out lined below.

It is now acknowledged by government that it will not be possible to always socially distance children when they are at nursery. The government has advised Early Years that children present a lower risk of infection than adults and that the benefits for them attending their Early Years education far outweighs this risk.

We have been reviewing our practice and layout of our nursery to minimise risks for everyone, we will be asking parent to sign a separate COVID practice parent agreement before children return to nursery. The main changes to our practice are:

Working in key group bubbles:

To restrict the transfer of COVID within educational settings we have been asked to, where feasible, to work in key group bubbles, where practitioners work within certain areas with key group children. There should be no merging of key groups joining together for meals, sharing of space and practitioners, to help minimise cross infection, unless social distancing can be applied.

We are working to divide each room and setting up specific areas, which will be assigned to each key bubble group.

Bubbles might modify slightly each day depending on which children are due to attend, but this will be minimised. You may find that your "pre lockdown keyworker" may have changed, as some of our team remain on furlough. We will be working towards a buddy keyworker system that allows for team sickness or self-isolation should it arise.

Should a child or staff member show symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent home immediately and asked to request a test as soon as possible. The guidance states that should a child or staff member within a nursery bubble test positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate at home for 7 days. Nursery will then advise all members of the relevant child's key bubble that they will also need to self-isolate, for 14 days.

Children under 5 can now be tested for COVID -19 which can be organised through the 111 service. All outbreaks of COVID-19 will be reported to Public Health England.

PPE (Personal Protection Equipment):

The Government have recommended that children under 5 do not wear PPE and that staff and teachers do not need to wear PPE whilst working with children. However, we have provided PPE for our staff team which they can wear as they feel they need to. We have asked them to increase the amount of PPE they wear whilst nappy changing as a precaution, which would normally include gloves and disposable aprons and now could include facial shields.

It is advised that full PPE should be worn by our team whilst they are waiting with a symptomatic child to be collected.

Single Education Settings:

The Government has advised that, in an effort to reduce exposures, children should only attend one educational setting. Therefore, we are only currently accepting children who will only attend Orchard Lea, should the guidance change we will let you know.

Items that you would normally bring to nursery:

In an effort to deduce the potential transfer from and to nursery we are asking that:

Comforters:

The wellbeing of our children will always remain firmly in our minds at all times and we appreciate at this time, more than ever our children may need this support. The ideal would be for you to source a comforter that can be left at nursery. When this can't be achieved we kindly ask that something is used that can be easily disinfected e.g. not too big or too intricate to clean and we would advise you to clean it on return home from nursery.

Bags:

We are asking if children's bags can stay at nursery for the whole week, and if needed to be sent home on the last session of their nursery week. When potty training, please bring a supply of clothes so that we can restock your child's bag. Any items of soiled clothes will be bagged and clearly labelled with your child's name and left in boxes outside the exit of nursery.

Clothes:

We always recommend bringing spare clothes into nursery, however old your child is. We would like parents, where possible to bring in a weeks worth of spare clothes which will be kept in their bag and used if needed. Any dirty or wet clothes will be returned back on a daily basis.

Nappies:

Please bring nappies into nursery in unopened packaging, this will mean we will be able to clean prior to opening, or if needed, quarantine for 3 days before use.

Buggy and Pram Storage:

We are closing the communal storage for the time being to minimise the potential of others moving your belongings. Unfortunately, this means we will be unable to store your cars seats, prams and buggies at nursery.

Temperatures:

Although the governments guidance is that there is no need to take children's temperature whilst at nursery, we will be continuing to monitor temperatures, albeit in an unobtrusive manner, throughout the day. Anyone with a high temperatures (37.8 or higher) will be sent home and asked to either self-isolate for the required time (2 weeks) or get tested for COVID-19 and await results. We appreciate that this is a grey area with teething so please talk to us. During this period we will not be administering Calpol, as this masks the high temperature symptom of COVID-19, unless a child temperature is excessively high and they are at risk of convulsion.

Entering and leaving nursery:

To support self distancing we have added COVID distance marking leading up to the front door, where queues can form. At Kingswood we have adopted a one-way route to and from the nursery front door. Everyone enters and exits through the front door, the back door will remain locked.

At this time unfortunately carers will not be allowed to enter the building. Children will need to be dropped at the front door by one person only please. After ringing the bell we will call a team member known to them to take your child to their room/ key group bubble.

Upon collection parents will wait outside the front door and practitioners will bring the children to them and handover through the entrance.

Please exit by continuing along the walkway, turning right at the end to exit through the small gate on the decked area, down onto the gravel and out through the side gate next to the entrance gate.

Please let us know if you will need assistance with exiting the building.

Forest School and Outsourced Activities:

For the time being we have placed Forest School and all outsourced (Kinderama, Diddidance, Press Pause mindfulness) activities on hold. This due to being able to ineffectively social distance on the minibus while traveling to and from forest school and to minimise visitors into nursery environment.

Cleaning & Equipment:

Each key bubble area or room will be cleaned at the end of each day (surfaces and floors equipment and touch points). Common touch points (door handles, light switches etc) will be cleaned periodically throughout the day. Where possible we will remove soft furnishing e.g rugs and pillows to further reduce the chances of a transmission. Equipment will be reviewed and we will use more easily cleanable play equipment throughout the nursery where possible.