

Coronavirus Policy

AIM

To ensure all staff, children and parents/carers are protected during a pandemic; the following must be taken seriously. This advice is taken from The Department of Education and Public Health England. The safety of the children is at the forefront of our practice. **We will continue to follow up-to-date advice and act accordingly.**

Symptoms

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Children are likely to become infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) at roughly the same rate as adults, but the infection is usually mild.

If anyone has any of the symptoms above they should self-isolate at home for 10 days. You can stop self-isolating if your symptoms have gone, or if you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these symptoms can last for weeks after the infection has gone. If you are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) you should self-isolate for at least 10 days starting from the day the test was taken.

If you have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms, but develop symptoms during the isolation period, you should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day you develop symptoms.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to the setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

However, keep self-isolating if you have any other symptoms (such as a high temperature, runny nose, feeling sick or diarrhoea) – you can stop self-isolating when your symptoms have gone.

If you live with someone who has symptoms, self-isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started.

staff, young people and children should stay at home if they develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise, those who are eligible or required to attend should attend nursery as normal.

if staff or children develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school they will be sent home



staff will clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products.

young children will be supervised to ensure they wash their hands more often than usual. They should do so thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.

Developing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at the nursery

If anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at the setting they will be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.

A child who is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with a member of staff, who will be wearing PPE. A window will be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom and the bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

To limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone attending the nursery must be symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or received a negative test result. Only during extreme circumstances will staff and children have their temperature recorded using a digital hand held thermometer before entering the nursery. If a temperature is recorded of 37.8°C or greater they will be sent home.

New intakes, the parent/carer will be able to come into the nursery at the beginning of the term (we will stagger start times) but when able the children will be called to the front door or side gate, depending on which year group and taken into the nursery by a member of staff. Again, only in extreme circumstances, if a child is highly distressed then we will ask them to be comforted until they are ready to come in.

Hands will be washed immediately upon entering and we will continue to remind staff children, parents/carers the importance of hygiene and washing hands thoroughly - to wash hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal. Hand sanitizers will be provided as well.

We will frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using standard cleaning products.

In extreme circumstances, the team/staff will wear PPE at certain times of the day (nappy changing, toileting assistance, first aid administration) which will include a mask, plastic apron and gloves.



To ensure the safety of all, social distancing between staff and other adults will be maintained. There will be times when this is not practical with young children. If a child is upset then we will comfort them as best as possible by either placing them on an adult's lap, facing away with their back to the adult or placing them next to them. If a child's behaviour escalates then we will call the parent/carer to collect the child. At going home time, children will be passed to their parent/carer.

Visitors

The following will only be put into place if necessary and depending on the severity of the pandemic:- we will not be inviting/allowing visitors to enter the building; however we will provide videos and pictures of the setting on our website for easy viewing. We will also provide face to face online meetings if required. If we are required to allow an adult into the nursery for a specific reason, we will take their temperature before entry, they will follow the 2 meter distancing guide and be required to wash their hands on entering and leaving the building. Staff will clean and disinfect surfaces.

Trace and Track

Testing is being extended to everyone with coronavirus symptoms, including under-5s, children attending the nursery. Those testing positive will be contacted by one of 25,000 call handlers and asked to share names and phone numbers of family, friends and colleagues whom they have been within 2 metres of for more than 15 minutes within the previous two days.

They will then call those people and instruct them to self-isolate for 14 days, and keep any children out of nursery. The instruction will stand even if they have previously self-isolated, or had a positive antibody test.

