**Health and safety during Covid**

**Risk assessment:** We will carry out and continue to review our COVID-19 risk assessment in line with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines**.**

This assessment directly addresses risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), so that the right measures can be put in place to control those risks for children, their families and staff.

We are aware that HSE has stated that inspectors will carry out spot checks to see how well businesses are complying with health and safety law and the obligation to control the risk from COVID-19 to workers and the public. This could include site visits, phone calls, and the collection of supporting visual evidence such as photos.

We will consult all employees on health and safety, and so they are best placed to understand the risks in nursery.

We ensure all staff; parents and visitors are familiar with the risk assessment.

**Re-opening following an outbreak:** Appropriate health and safety checks will be conducted prior to reopening

**Social distancing:** The early years sector know that unlike older children and adults, babies and young children cannot be expected to remain two metres apart from each other and staff. The government guidelines acknowledge this through advising grouping measures that are in place. Although there is no longer a requirement to keep children in ‘bubbles’, addendums to policies and procedures have been put in place to help minimise the risk of infection through avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms, frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices; regular cleaning of settings, minimising contact and mixing of different rooms/age groups, where possible.

Staff at the nursery cannot enter the other buildings and are only permitted to enter the building they are working in.

**COSHH assessment**: We will ensure that a COSHH assessment is completed for any intended use of bleach and disinfectant products used on site.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**: Government guidance is that PPE is not required for general use in early year’s settings to protect against COVID- 19 transmission. PPE will be continued to be worn as normal for nappy changing and the administration of paediatric first aid.

PPE will also be worn by staff caring for a sick child while they await collection if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs.) This includes a specific type of mask which the nursery will provide. Where appropriate staff will be provided with adequate training on the use of PPE.

**Face covering:** During everyday practice, staff and children will not be made to wear face coverings as per the government guidelines. The nursery recommends that staff wear face coverings where possible. Parents and other visitors MUST wear a mask at all times. **Essential supplies:** We will ensure an adequate supply of essential supplies by ordering in advance. Contingency plans are in place to minimise the impact of any shortages of supplies. The setting will not be not be able to operate without essential supplies required for the management of infection control.

A monitoring system for the usage of PPE is essential to ensure that a supply of stock is available to all who require it, as and when required to meet the operational needs of the setting.

**Coronavirus testing:** We will ensure that we follow the NHS Test and Trace process and contact the dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. This can be reached by calling the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

We will ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

* Book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and children must not come into the setting if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in the setting. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children under 11 will need to be helped by their parents or carers if using a home testing kit
* Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
* Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

Settings should ask parents, carers and staff to inform them immediately of the results of the test:

If someone tests negative, and they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow [Stay at home: guidance for households](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to the setting only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full **10** days.