

3rd November 2020

Parents and carers,

In light of the government announcement on Saturday I wanted to contact you all. We continue to find ourselves in very strange times where we all hold responsibility for our own safety as well as the safety of others.

The government continues to reassure that schools and nurseries are safe places for children to be, children gain positive experiences in nursery and learning alongside peers enables children to develop skills that would be difficult to establish in the home environment.

We would like to reassure you that when we reopened the nurseries fully in September we prepared for changes in guidance and increases in the rate of infection. It was our intention to create a safe environment for children and staff that would not require adjustments if the rate of infection increased. Although there was no requirement to place the children in small consistent groups we chose to continue to bubble children and staff to minimise risks - we believe that this will continue to provide a safe environment during this unsettling time. The children remain in their consistent bubble of a maximum of either 15 or 30 depending on their age.

We continue to have enhanced cleaning and hygiene routines in place for children, staff and the environment, and our social distancing measures including the stretched drop off and pick up times at 9am, 1pm and 4pm remain in place. (Due to a smaller number of children arriving and leaving at mid-day and staffing needs we ask that if your child is collected at this time that you arrive by 12pm)

Children and staff have no contact with those in different bubbles, and senior leadership team whom act across bubbles do so whilst maintaining a distance and for short periods of time only.

We have until now only allowed essential visits to the Centre, and any visitors did not come into contact with children - these minimal visits will be ceased for the duration of the lock down. The Centre continues during this time to be used only by the Nurseries and this will be risk assessed carefully before changes are made, with changes in national restrictions we are currently looking at adjustments that need to be made to our January starters visiting arrangements.

We have decided that we will make one change to drop off and collection, **from Thursday**; to minimise adults coming into the building during this time we will ask that A group children are also dropped to and collected from their classroom door. Please use the side gate and

carefully follow the arrows on the floor and the signage. This means that all Meadows children will arrive and leave through the side gate.

Pastures children will continue to be dropped at the internal door to the nurseries.

You can help to ensure that the nurseries are safe for children and adults by:

- Ensuring that you are wearing a face covering whilst on the nursery site (both indoors and outdoors) At times it is impossible to maintain a 2m distance during drop off and collection, particularly if you are required to pass your child to a member of the team and a face covering will reduce the risks.
- Maintaining 2m social distancing where ever possible.
- Calling or emailing with any queries rather than visiting reception.
- Keeping your conversations at drop off to a minimum (please do let us know if you would like a more lengthy conversation and we can arrange a phone call)
- Following the arrows and guidelines at collection and drop off outside the building - these are in place to minimise the risk of congestion. At times you will be directed to wait until a walk way is clear- please follow these directions to ensure the safety of all involved.
- Not sending your child to nursery if they are unwell or have Covid 19 symptoms.
- Adhering to the government guidance and restrictions in place both locally and globally.
- We are aware that at this time of year children and adults will become unwell and colds are common. Many of the symptoms displayed will relate to other illnesses but we must follow government guidance to limit the spread of the virus. We are unable to advise you on whether your child is well enough for nursery. If your child or someone in your household has one of the symptoms seek medical advice, by calling 111 or going onto the Corona virus guidance.

Please note the guidance around Covid 19 symptoms:

- The main symptoms of coronavirus are:
 - **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



Meadows Nursery
3 years – 5 years
Ofsted Outstanding
November 2016



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Pastures Nursery
3 months – 3 years
Ofsted Outstanding
June 2017



What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

This Thursday we find ourselves in another lock down - children are able to and encouraged to continue attending nursery but there are many other areas of your lives that will be restricted.

Try to remain positive and whilst unable to go out and about use the time you have with family to create some fun memories.

Best wishes, stay safe.

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