

04/06/2020

## RE-OPENING PLAYGROUP

MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020



Dear Parent

It has been lovely to speak to so many of you over the past few weeks to let you know when and how we plan to start welcoming children back to playgroup.

Sally and I have been very conscious of wanting to encourage parents to have confidence in returning their child to playgroup but also that at this time everyone is taking `baby steps` into education and childcare based on their own circumstances and we will continue to support families that may not attend at this time.

We now have the number of children that will be accessing our provision and would like to provide those parents with more details on the measures we will have put in place across the setting to ensure we keep your child safe.



### BUBBLES

We have created 2 small family bubbles of 15 children that your child will spend their time with whilst at playgroup. The children will always be with the same staff and children every day during the week. As the return is gradual, we have given priority to our eldest children on the register transitioning to school, 30 hours working parents, key workers and those identified as our most vulnerable.

The bubbles will include a small number of 30-hour key children across the week. Parents will have been confirmed which group they are in times of session:

**AM BUBBLE - 9:00AM TO 11:30AM**

**PM BUBBLE - 12:30PM TO 3:00PM**



### DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

To help with social distancing to avoid un-necessary contact between `bubbles` of children sessions are now 2 ½ hours long instead of 3 hours. This will allow for enhanced cleaning of resources and equipment between sessions following current government guidelines.

Only children that are symptom free of cold symptoms and are healthy may attend the playgroup.

We ask that parents always demonstrate social distancing while queuing on the pavement and if parents could limit drop off and pick up to 1 adult per family this would help to minimise gathering at the main entrance.

If parents could also keep in mind that Gordon Schools will also be using their gate on Minerva Road for staggered drop off and pick up.

A member of staff will be at the gate to welcome the children into the setting, parents are asked to drop children at the gate quickly. At the end of each session one staff member will take out the child to their parent.

Parents, siblings and storage of pushchairs, scooters will not be allowed onto the premises.

Children will be asked to wash their hands before they enter inside the playrooms. They will not be asked to find their names to self-register as they usually would, but they will still have their designated pegs to put their bag inside.

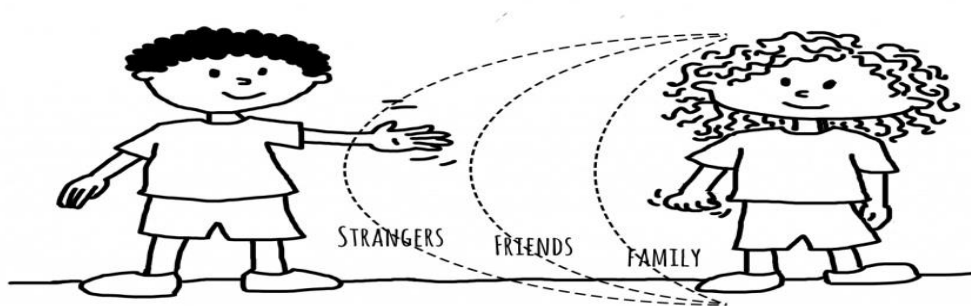
Can parents ensure children are suitably dressed for the weather each day with a clearly named backpack which can be left on their peg for the duration of the term, containing a complete change of easy to wear clothes including underwear and footwear. Also, parent would kindly provide an easy to apply sunscreen and a named hat for the sunnier days, we will have lots of outdoor play. Please no comforters, toys, drinks, or dummies permitted.

To minimise contact between the parent, other children and staff members if there is something you wish to discuss like changes to collection, authorised persons, changes to medical care plans or medications then this must be done by telephone or email in advance of attendance of child, staff will not engage in parent discussion at the gate.

If a child is hurt during the session scrapes, bruises, bumped head, we will follow our normal procedures of recording an accident, injury and incidents but will not ask the parent to sign at the end of the session, instead we will notify you either by text or telephone. Please remain contactable during your child`s session.

This is all to minimise cross contamination as much as possible between staff, children, and households.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN STAFF AND CHILDREN



We will have lots of signage around the provision displaying reminders of social distancing for adults and we have provided some child-like drawings that our children may identify with at their level.

I would like to reassure parents that we have 7 of our staff that are fit and healthy, they are all aware of the guidelines and risks involved when working alongside each other and with children and their responsibilities ensuring that if they are symptomatic they do not attend work. We have a risk assessment in place.

Staff are expected to social distance between themselves when working where possible but we do expect our children to have an `understanding of `2 metres` but will encourage and guide your children on those occasions when they want to climb all over us and sit on each other to give each other a `little space`.

Children of 3 and 4 years are unlikely to distance play and will show affection and happiness in seeing their friends and teachers and we feel the same about them!

The nursery provision will look hugely different, they will not have access to free choice of activities, dressing up and not all their friends will be there, but it will be a fun place to be. What we will do is to provide them with lots of space inside and use our large outside space and play park to plan for lots of fun, creative and challenging play while allowing them to play as independently as possible.

Key persons will do lots of work preparing them for big school independence and the new more important self-care routines of frequent hand washing throughout the day and using tissues, encouraging children to avoid touching their faces, putting things into their mouths and how to keep themselves safe.

## BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND SNACK TIME



We will continue to provide a free breakfast during the morning of cereal, toast and fruit and in the afternoon a free snack will be offered of crackers, cheese, fruit, yoghurt with children sitting in smaller social groups spaced apart, with a member of staff preparing and serving the food.

Water, milk, and sugar-free squash provided at each meal.

LUNCH - lunch is only available to our 30 hours `bubble` children. The cost is £2:50 and we will provide and prepare the lunches for this small group of children.

**Please do not send in lunch boxes.**

A light lunch of a sandwich/wrap, fruit, yoghurt, and a treat will be provided each day. Parents will be invoiced for the term via email and payment due within 7 days.

All dietary requirements will be continued to be met, please advise us to any changes to children`s diet since last at playgroup.



## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO KEEP US ALL SAFE

The first thing we must ask parents is **DO NOT** send your child to playgroup if they are unwell this includes minor childhood ailments of cough and colds, runny noses, sickness or diarrhoea, impetigo, conjunctivitis, chicken pox or have required any medication.

Ensure yourselves (parents) are healthy and well enough to drop and pick up children from playgroup, arriving and leaving promptly once child is welcomed in by staff.

Please minimise contact with staff members, other parents, and children outside your own families at the entrance or while social distance queuing at dropping off and picking up.

While your child is attending playgroup please keep us informed if anyone in your household becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, so we can take action to keep others safe.

## RESPONDING TO SUSPECTED CASE OF CORONAVIRUS

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste

If parents or children begin to display any coronavirus symptoms please however mild stay home, follow government guidelines on `what to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms` (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>) or call NHS 111 who will tell you what to do and help you get a test if you need one. If you or your child health deteriorates rapidly call 999, trust your instincts and do not wait.

If your child has attended playgroup, please let us know **immediately**.

If a child becomes unwell in the provision displaying coronavirus symptoms, they will be isolated with a member of staff wearing PPE and parents will be contacted promptly to take their child home to isolate and follow NHS guidelines.

We will then implement rigorous protective and cleaning measures within the provision as per government guidelines to minimise the risk of contamination encountering the other children and adults using the provision.

If a child or staff member with symptoms then tests positive the rest of the `bubble` group parents will be informed, advised to self-isolate for 14 days and the provision will be closed.

The other household members of that `bubble` group including children or adults do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with then develops symptoms.

Further information if you are worried can be found on the NHS website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) which has the most updated information.

I hope we have covered everything that you will need to know, we certainly do not know everything and we are learning as we go along updating guidelines almost daily as we progress through lockdown but please telephone or email if you have any other queries or are worried.

Please be assured we will do our absolute best to keep everyone safe within our playgroup family and that your children will be happy, continue to learn and kept busy while in our care!

Look forward to welcoming you all back next week!

Regards, keep safe

*Delia Bryan*

*Sally Howarth*

*Managers*

*On and behalf of the Jack and Jill Playgroup*