

CHIDDINGSTONE NURSERY SCHOOL CIO

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2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER - TERM 2 AUTUMN 2020

COVID PREVENTATIVE MEASURES REVIEWED

In line with some changes to the UK Government guidance for schools, the Nursery's Covid-19 preventative measures and risk assessments has been updated accordingly. We are all aware that the infection rate nationwide continues to increase and it is therefore very important that we remain vigilant in our community, routines and preventative measures to continue to help minimise the risk of infection transmission in the Nursery. As such a new parental Covid-19 Home Nursery Agreement (attached) will be implemented for parents to read and sign and return to Nursery either via e-mail or paper copy. The decision has also been made to accept children that attend another setting/childcare until guidance changes with the provision we can track and trace and liaise in relation to preventative measures. At present the only parents that have been allowed into nursery have been to settle their children should it be detrimental to their child's wellbeing. After half term we will encourage all parents to drop their children at the front entrance door. If this is not possible, parents will now have to wear a face mask as well as have a temperature check, wash hands and sign in for track and trace. For the time being, it has been decided Musical Bumps will continue as a virtual lesson rather than Mrs Black returning face to face.

As the infection rate increases and the tiers of lockdown are implemented, we continue to have daily bubbles and cleaning schedules. If any family, child, staff member displays any symptoms of Covid-19 or have mixed with anyone who has a positive test please inform the nursery immediately and follow government guidance on self-isolation.

COVID SYSTEM OF CONTROL

As a reminder, I have included the overview of the ranges of measures in place at Chiddingstone Nursery below:

Preventative Measures

- Each day the Nursery makes a daily 'social bubble' with the aim of limiting the numbers of individuals that the children have contact with while in Nursery. Social distancing within the daily bubble will simply not be possible as young children will naturally interact with each other and with the staff in a way that prevents this from being achievable over a sustained period of time.
- Temperature checks on arrival at the Nursery for all staff and children using 'non-contact' thermometers.
- Ensuring children and adults wash their hands thoroughly with soap and hot water upon arrival.

- Frequent handwashing will take place throughout the day
- Social distancing measures to be put in place for drop-off and collection using a staggered queuing 'drop off and go' and 'pick up and go' one-way system, to avoid close interaction between parents, staff and other children.
- Increased cleaning at lunchtime (toilets) and at the end of each daily session.
- Promoting good respiratory hygiene practices by encouraging the children not to touch their mouth, eyes or nose and to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze into and use bins for tissue waste ('Catch it, Bin it, Kill it').
- Ensure, where possible, the Nursery remains well ventilated by opening doors.
- Taking the temperature of any child saying they are feeling unwell by using a 'no-touch' thermometer.
- Not sharing play equipment between daily groups and each daily group having their own set of resources to use each day
- Where practically possible, we will encourage children to sit on their own mat and chair each day inside and outside.
- We will utilise outdoor spaces as much as possible, reducing the amount of time spent indoors.
- Learning opportunities to teach and reinforce the importance of frequent handwashing and good respiratory hygiene practices.
- Due to the potential of other health and safety risks posed to themselves, and the adoption of the daily 'social bubble' principle, children will not wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in nursery e.g. face masks.

The staff will also be taking the following additional precautions:

- Procedures to ensure reduced adult to adult contact, including between parents and staff
- Having full access to, but not necessarily using, personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks, visors, aprons, gloves and additional personal hand sanitising bottles.
- Limiting numbers of staff in other communal areas, to maintain 1 metre social distancing.
- Will continue to offer virtual meetings with parents, staff and committee to avoid unnecessary contact.

Visitors on Site

Once your child has been dropped off at Nursery we ask that parents/carers do not come into the Nursery. Parents and carers should only come into the building when strictly necessary and only by appointment. **A face mask must be worn. Contact with the Nursery should be via telephone or email.**

Please read the attached guidance for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Also attached is the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document.

NURSERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Nursery Management Committee are really keen to encourage parent/carers to take an active role in the organisation and management of our nursery. It is very important to the committee that we keep relevant to the needs of our children, families and the nursery community and this is made possible by present members who can feed back directly on their experiences and those of their children and peers. The trustees make the majority of the bigger decisions and the committee members manage a variety of projects including advertisement, promotion, liaising with parents and input in the questionnaire and nursery improvement plan. Meetings are by Zoom once a term. If you would be interested in joining the committee, please email the nursery to answer any questions you may have.

SETTLING IN CONSULTATIONS

If you have not had an opportunity to speak with your key person to discuss your child's settling in, please do speak to them to arrange a convenient time to meet up. The consultation only takes 5-10min and can be at drop off or collection times. The 'All About Me' consultations will take place early on in the New Year which gives you the opportunity to be involved in planning for your child's learning journey,

SESSION ALLOCATION

Session allocation has taken place over the last few weeks and we have filled all 20 places for every morning session from January 2021. We do have session availability every afternoon but can only offer these to the children that attend the morning session so we do not break the Covid-19 'daily bubble'. The following sessions are still available:

- 6 sessions on a Monday afternoon
- 9 sessions on a Tuesday afternoon
- 8 sessions on a Wednesday afternoon
- 11 Sessions on a Thursday afternoon

If any parent would like to take up any of these additional sessions, please speak to a member of staff. Sessions will be allocated by age priority.

Whilst we have few additional sessions available, we would like to offer parents the opportunity to book ad hoc sessions for their children. This would need to be booked and be payable by cash, cheque or bank transfer in advance of the session.

WINTER CLOTHING

Now that it is becoming cooler as we head into the winter months, it is really important that **all** the children bring warm waterproof coats with a hood every time they attend nursery as they are given the opportunity of outside play every day. Please could all items of clothing be clearly named, preferably in lower case letters, as not all children recognise their own coats. When the weather is wet, wellies are essential, again clearly named please. These can be stored in the boot rack in the courtyard and the nursery spare boots will be kept in the wooden box in the entrance hall. If children arrive in wellies please provide some indoor shoes for them to wear in the nursery.



FUNDRAISING NAME TAGS

Please support the nursery and the staff team who are struggling to match child to belongings by ordering and naming everything your child brings to nursery, as parents are no longer able to come in and find personal property this would be hugely appreciated. The nursery is given a percentage from all orders from 'Mynametags' when you order with the nursery code 42771. A direct link to the Nurseries 'Mynametags' account is also available on the Nursery website. The name tags have been recommended by a parent for durability.



CHILDREN IN NEED

This year the BBC Children in Need is on Friday 13th November. We like to support this very worthwhile charity, for a £2 donation your children can have a dress up day! We look forward to seeing all the different costumes.

CHRISTMAS CARDS and PICTURES

The children have made a picture reindeer using their footprint. These pictures have been printed to provide personalised Christmas cards for each child. The funds go to

the Nursery PTA. Information on how these can be ordered has already been circulated, so cards can be returned in good time for Christmas if you order quickly.

NURSERY NATIVITY

The Nursery Nativity performance will be taking place, hopefully in a virtual format and all the children will be invited to take part. Parent/carers will need to sign permission that they are happy for their children to take part and that the performance will be viewed by other nursery families in line with data protection and confidentiality. The Nursery has costumes that will be allocated prior to the event.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On the last morning of term, Friday, 18th December, we will have our end of term party which includes games and individual party snacks. This is open to all the children. If your child does not normally attend on a Friday and you would like them to come, there will be an additional charge for the extra session of £18.50 to cover staff costs.

END OF TERM

The nursery will close at 12.00 noon on Friday, 18th December after the party.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Could you please ensure that the nursery is updated **IMMEDIATELY** if your mobile/landline telephone number changes.

BAD WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

Below is the procedure to follow should you suspect that the Nursery might not be open due to bad weather.

The Nursery will not be open: -

- If there are insufficient staff to supervise the children safely.
- If the temperature in the building is not reasonable enough to work in.
- The toilets and/or water supply are affected.

Should the Nursery be closed due to bad weather, notification of closure will be advised via KM/FM radio, Heart Kent (used to be Invicta FM) or BBC Radio Kent. School closures are also listed on kmfm.co.uk website.

The Nursery website will be updated and a Parentmail text and email sent as soon as a closure confirmed. In the event of no internet availability a telephone cascade system of notification will be used for communication.

Please don't hesitate to come and speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns.

STAFFING

The nursery wishes Miss Wells a speedy recovery and we are all looking forward to her return.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J McCoy
Nursery Leader

3 forms attached to be returned please.

Please return completed Forms to Nursery as soon as possible

XMAS ACTIVITIES

Name of Child: _____

NURSERY NATIVITY

I give my permission for my child to take part in the recorded nursery virtual nativity.
And I give permission for my child's image to be seen and viewed by other nursery families.

Signed _____ Dated _____

END OF TERM PARTY **Friday 18th December 2020**

Name of Child: _____

My child will / will not be attending the end of term party *(Please delete as appropriate)*

S/he usually attends on a Friday morning

I enclose a £18.50 for the additional session and end of term party on 18th December as my child does not usually attend a Friday morning.