

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our Playgroup.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the Playgroup. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We will develop routines to ensure our children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitizer ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the Playgroup.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including tabletops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the Playgroup. We recognise however that some children may require a transitional object or toy as a comforter, and consideration will be given as to how to safely manage this to ensure children are supported in their transition from home to the setting to feel reassured and comforted.
- Government advice is that the virus is not as easily transmitted outdoors so we will be planning for more outdoor learning so children's clothing, especially footwear, should be appropriate for spending large amounts of time learning outside.

Guidelines for drop off:

Please limit drop-off and collection to one parent/carer per household. Where possible, we would encourage parents/carers to wait at the gate/railing and a member of staff will come and collect their child and take them into Playgroup. This area will be clearly signposted within the car park area. Though there are currently no rules governing distancing from each other, please be mindful of how close you come to staff and other parents/carers dropping their children.

Guidelines for pick up:

We ask parents/carers to wait at the gate/railing and a member of staff will bring their child to them.

*If parents/carers are walking to Playgroup with their child, we ask they wait in designated area in car park and a member of staff will collect their child and take them into Playgroup. The same procedure will apply at the end of the session.

***Fiona will be available at the beginning and end of each session if parents/carers wish to discuss anything.**

Wherever possible when a child is settling into Playgroup, this will be undertaken in our outdoor area with the parent/carer and away from other children. It is important that relationships are developed and the settling in period reflects the needs of the child.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the Playgroup.

1. If you or anyone in your household develops symptoms you **MUST** get tested and not come to Playgroup until a negative result has been achieved. You also should inform us for our records. You can find all the relevant information/guidelines on the **NHS Inform website**.
2. If your child is unwell at home with any of the symptoms listed on the link above, please do not send them to Playgroup. If you are ill with

any of the symptoms listed, we would ask that you do not send your child into Playgroup until you are sure they are not at risk of developing the virus.

3. If your child suddenly becomes unwell with a high fever, we will contact you immediately. We will then isolate your child with a member of staff until you are able to collect them. Due to the seriousness of the current situation we would ask that you do come and collect them as soon as you can or send a nominated adult to collect them in your place.

We hope that this has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have put in place. We hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. We are looking forward to welcoming your child. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Thank you for your support.

Fiona, June, Heather and Gloria