

Little Dragons Child Care Centre



Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

On Monday 11th May 2020 the government released their guidance '**OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy**' in which they outline their roadmap to lift restrictions step by step. In the document it specifies:

A phased return for early years settings and schools. Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from 1 June. The Government expects children to be able to return to early years settings, and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes, from this point. This aims to ensure that the youngest children, and those preparing for the transition to secondary school, have maximum time with their teachers. Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. The Government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. The Department of Education will engage closely with schools and early years providers to develop further detail and guidance on how schools should facilitate this.

In alignment with this document we are looking at a phased return initially this will include

- *Staggered entry and collection times*
- *Reduced numbers of children and staff in the setting*
- *Potentially reduced sessions, increasing to normal sessions over time*
- *Children will be allocated a key member of staff each day they are in. They will then remain with this member of staff for the day.*
- *Reduced amount of toys available, which will be rotated and disinfected daily.*
- *Increased use of the outdoor play area. (Please ensure you apply sun cream before sending your child in)*
- *2m markings along the entrance pathway and ramp. Please ensure only 1 person is on the ramp at a time and follow the markings outlined.*
- *Arrival and collection points will remain the same. School parents will be using the side entrances, however Little Dragons remains unchanged in order to reduce the amount of people using these pathways.*
- *A ring doorbell will be fitted in replacement of our existing bell. This bell will allow audio communication before access is granted to the setting. (Please note the bell also has a visual function for office use)*
- *Parents will not be granted access to the main building. Handovers will happen at the main entrance door. Further information on this is outlined below.*

Social Distancing

- *Parent's / Carers will generally not be granted access to the main building. At the beginning of the pandemic we began taking children at the door and this will continue. The same will happen in regards to collections. However there may be occasions where parents need to enter the setting to support their child if in distress. If this needs to happen please try to provide 2m social distancing.*
- *Tape will be positioned on the ramp and along the main path in order to mark 2m gaps. These tape markings will signal waiting areas for our parents on drop off and collection.*
- *We have a ring doorbell, the new doorbell will be clearly identified for you. Should you wish to discuss development or any other matters further please either email katy.humpage@taw.org.uk or call the setting and we will arrange for your child's key person or the appropriate member of the team to call you back. This is to reduce the amount of face to face contact.*

- Please ensure you are aware of your surroundings and try to protect yourself and others by keeping 2m distance where possible whilst on school site. Social distancing posters will be displayed on the fences / in windows etc.

PPE and Hygiene

The government document 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings' specifies;

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.

- It is expected that staff will self-assess their wellbeing before coming to work. We would therefore ask that you also assess your child's well-being before sending them into nursery.
- If your child becomes symptomatic within the setting you will be asked to collect them. Therefore please ensure you have emergency contact details up to date before you send your child back to Little Dragons. Given the vulnerability level for those over 70 we would ask that you please try to ensure your emergency contacts are not grandparents. Please update your contact details by emailing Jessica.Fletcher@taw.org.uk
- Upon arrival to Little Dragons your child's temperature will be taken by a member of the team. Please note the member of staff will be wearing an apron and gloves upon initial handover and will have the choice to wear a mask if they wish to do so.
- A new contactless forehead thermometer will be used. Should the temperature be 37.8 or higher your child will not be able to remain at Little Dragons due to this being considered a temperature under the covid-19 symptom checklist and will be asked to stay away from the setting whilst you monitor their situation.
- All members of Little Dragons staff will also have their temperatures taken upon arrival.
- After entering the setting your child will be taken to wash their hands whilst being supported by a member of staff.
- Your child will then be encouraged to wash their hands on multiple occasions throughout the session.
- Staff must wear gloves and Aprons at;
 - Nappy changing / toileting times
 - Snack and meal times
 - When administering first aid *
 - When supporting an unwell child*

*Disposable face masks are also available for these occasions should staff wish to use them.

- All hard surfaces will be cleaned every 60 minutes with appropriate surface cleaner. These include;
 - Door Handles inside and out
 - Keypad
 - Window latches
 - Windowsills and skirting boards
 - Tables
 - Tops of play units
 - Benches and Sofa
 - Taps, nappy unit, toilet handles and soap dispensers
 - Phone unit
 - Filling Cabinets
 - Key cupboard
 - Slide, hoops etc outside will also need to be cleaned at the end of outdoor use, unless a need is identified beforehand.
- Toys have been reduced within the setting and will be rotated regularly in order to allow thorough cleaning.
- Soft furnishing toys such as teddies, bees(cushions) and puppets have been removed as they can harbor germs and are harder to clean.

- Should a child place a toy in their mouth it will be removed and disinfected using Milton cleaning solution.
- Children's bottles will not be permitted into the setting. Regular drinks will be offered to the children throughout the session.
- Disposable cups will be used and recycled where appropriate.
- Where plates, cutlery etc is used for meals and snacks they will be thoroughly washed with hot soapy water and then left to disinfect in the Milton solution for the correct amount of time following the guidance on the package.
- If you opt to send a packed lunch please can we ask that you ensure children's packed lunches are sent in a wipeable container, These will then be wiped over upon arrival to the setting, the items removed and placed into a food bag from Little Dragons and placed back into the clean container until lunch.
- At least 2 windows will be open in the playrooms to provide ventilation and 1 window in the other rooms. (besides the foyer, this will stay closed for security reasons).
- Please can we ask that you apply sunscreen where needed before sending your child to nursery. Also please ensure you sent appropriate clothing for the weather as we will be sending more time outside.
- Please encourage your children to leave toys etc at home as these unfortunately will not be allowed into the setting.

Room Layout

The government document 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings' also specifies; ***We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:***

- ***avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms***
- ***frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices***
- ***regular cleaning of settings***
- ***minimising contact and mixing***

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

The way in which we aim to help support this is as follows:

- It may not be possible for us to meet your care needs initially but please rest assured we will do everything we can to offer care and support to those who need it. We will continue to offer care to Key Workers and those with EHCP as a matter of priority.
- Entry and Collection times will be staggered as advised by the LA and the Government in order to avoid over population of areas
- Upon arrival your child will be allocated a key member of staff for the day. This where possible will be your child's key person. This member of staff will then support their snack, toileting and all care needs. They will also be with several other children and will remain in these groups for the day. Please rest assured staff will openly communicate with one another to ensure children can access different areas they are interested in, this at present will need to be in these smaller groups to reduce the amount of contact everyone is having with different people.
- Individual trays will be used for painting, dough and water play. These trays will be used by 1 child, contents emptied and then the tray thoroughly cleaned.

- It will not be possible to always keep a 2m distance and it is not expected (as outlined above). However staff are encouraged to do this with one another and they will be encouraging children to ‘have a little space’ and play alongside each other. We realize that it will take a while for them to understand, if at all but we will do our best to make them feel comforted and involved.
- We realise some children may struggle being in one area for set periods of times. Whilst staff will do their best to encourage this we appreciate they may need to move to different areas. We will try and identify if this has a pattern, we then can allocate that area for those children.
- Risk of transmission is lower in open spaces. Therefore we will be utilising outdoors as much as possible. This too will be done in smaller groups.

Here are some pictures of the altered room layout:



Please note cushions will be removed.

COVID-19 Suspected Cases – The following is taken from the Early Years Alliance.

What should be done if a child or member of staff falls ill at the setting?

The DfE states that: “If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home”, and advised to follow government guidance (i.e. to self-isolate for seven days, while all members of their household self-isolate for 14 days).

If it is a child who has fallen ill, the guidance states that they should be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision while awaiting collection. The guidance adds that: “Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation”. If moving to a separate room is not possible, the child should be moved to an area at least two metres away from other people.

The guidance also states that: "PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs)."

If a member of staff has helped an unwell child, the guidance states that they should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds afterwards, but that they are not required to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or the child subsequently tests positive for coronavirus. If the member of staff does develop symptoms, they are able to access a free coronavirus test – more information on this is available here.

The guidance adds that: "Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people."

If a child or staff member is seriously ill, 999 should be called.

What if someone at the setting tests positive for COVID-19?

The government has confirmed that all staff and children at a childcare setting will have access to a coronavirus test if they display symptoms of the virus.

In the case of children, guidance states that: "To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over [and] will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5."

If either a child or member of staff tests positive, the rest of their 'group' at the setting "should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days". However, the guidance states that the household members of those in that group do not need to self-isolate unless the children or staff member who they live with develops symptoms themselves.

The guidance adds that: "if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take".

It also states that "in some cases, a larger number of other children may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure" but that "where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary".

We will be receiving further government guidance in the forthcoming weeks and also guidance from the local authority. The information above is based on the information we have up until today (19.05.2020). This document will be updated as appropriate and redistributed accordingly.

I appreciate it is a scary time for everyone and the return will cause a lot of apprehension and uncertainty for many. I hope the above information has helped to reassure you that we will do everything we can to support you. There is going to be many changes and we appreciate this can cause confusion and distress to children. Your children's well-being has always been our team's main priority and whilst the above measures may seem a little restrictive, please rest assured we will do everything we can for you and your child.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss anything further or should you have any questions that are not covered in the above information.

Kind Regards

Katy