

THE BIRMINGHAM FEDERATION OF MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS

Allens Croft Nursery School

Kings Norton Nursery School

Lillian De Lissa Nursery School

Adderley Nursery School

Jakeman Nursery School

Selly Oak Nursery School

St Thomas Centre Nursery School

Gracelands Nursery School

Shenley Fields Nursery School

Weoley Castle Nursery School

Newtown Nursery School

Highfield Nursery School

11th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open our schools more widely from 10 June.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 23 March 2020. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

The government would like schools to open to more children. Please read the government's guidance for parents and carers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We are working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back all children.

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 23 March 2020 and have been operating with smaller group sizes and additional hygiene and infection control measures.

The government is now encouraging all eligible children to attend and it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can.

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend school. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact Lillian de Lissa on 0121 675 3421 so we can discuss the details with you.

From Monday 15th June 2020 we will start to welcome back a small number of children. School will confirm attendance by telephone. Do not visit school unless it is planned that your child will return. Contact school by telephone for all enquiries.

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 have developed and implemented 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 setting.

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 school. That includes children and staff who work here.

Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the school.

Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure 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 hand sanitiser 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 setting.

Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment. This means some of the sessions offered will be shorter than usual.

Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.

Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to school, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.

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 setting.

If someone in your household displays symptoms of COVID 19, you must not bring your child to school. You should book a test and tell the school the outcome of the test. The main symptoms of coronavirus are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss or change in your sense of smell or taste.

The government encourages people to walk or travel in a private car. Try not to use public transport but if you have to wear a mask or facial covering and practise social distancing.

If your child become unwell at nursery they will need to immediately collected.

Parents and carers should talk to children about returning to school and provide reassurance to children facing changed routines and different groups.

For medical advice about symptoms England: NHS 111online coronavirus service

Testing

All children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in school.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Further guidance is available about getting tested.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

School will continue to support on-line learning for children who are not able to attend through Tapestry, social media and our websites.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 15th June. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Cryan

Executive Head Teacher.