

Pre-School Post



Welcome back!

It's so great to have a lovely noisy, busy pre-school back again after so long away and as of today, we've now welcomed all of the children back who were part of the pre-school last year as well as 5 new faces and more to come in the next few weeks. Mrs Carter and Mrs Phillips are in the setting every day this half term as Mrs McInnes has moved temporarily over to Sprat & Winkle class so that the children who've moved up to Year R had as smooth a transition as humanly possible given the lack of access to normal school transition in the summer term.

Thankyou for settling into our new routines so beautifully; I know it's confusing with different gates, time slots and pick up and drop off places! It's taken me a while to get my head around it and I designed the system!

Your children have settled back in brilliantly and love the slightly smaller groups that this autumn term brings. I look forward to catching up with you all.

Kind regards,
Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

Allergy reminder: We are a nut free setting and need to limit milk based products so NO YOGURTS or milk drinks please in any form.

New manager

I am delighted to announce that after a brilliant round of applications, strong shortlist and rigorous interviews, we have appointed a pre-school manager.

Mrs Kerry Evans will join the team just before October half term to get to know the children and staff for a few days before fully taking up the role as manager from 2nd Nov. She is hugely experienced in early years and currently works at an outstanding large nursery in Winchester. Great news.

Letters, phonecalls and general admin

There are many advantages of the pre-school being run by the school and one is that staff are freed from the general admin tasks so that they can solely concentrate on the children.

If you need to call pre-school, pay a bill, enquire about a change to hours or any other admin related query, please do see Mrs Spayes in the office who is the font of all knowledge on all things pre-school!

Bills will be coming home next week.

Year R in Sept 2021

A new school year has just begun but we're already thinking about next September!

Usually, I would show you around during the school day but COVID restrictions mean this is off the cards.

Instead, we are opening our doors on Saturday 10th Oct 9am – 12noon and again Wednesday 11th Nov from 6pm – 9pm to show you around when there is less people on site.

If you would like your child to join us in September 2021, please book an appointment slot with the office team on 01264 810550.



Updates to COVID practices at school

We are now 2 weeks into term and I wanted to wait and see what issues would arise and how we deal with them before writing to you with further guidance. Also, the Government guidance has been changing frequently but I feel we're probably at a stage where you need a bit more from me about how the School (and you at home) should deal with suspected cases, self-isolation and lockdowns of bubbles or indeed the whole school.

In all the information that follows, as unpalatable as some of it may be, please remember, we are only instigating it to keep you and us safe and ensure your child can be in school as much as possible and reduce the risk of lockdowns.

General issues when school is open and functioning

All of the procedures in place so far are working well. As time has gone on and the R number increased higher, we are more aware of people visiting the site, including parents dropping children off. We love the quieter mornings and pick-ups and think this has been a good way to manage numbers on site but when we as adults are passing each other or having a chat at the gate, I and other staff are conscious that we barely manage a 1m social distancing rule. **From Monday 21st September, all staff will wear masks when greeting you at the gate and we ask that you, as parents, also wear a mask to drop off your child. If you are meeting with a member of staff, we ask you to also wear a mask to keep you and us safe.**

Coughs, colds or COVID?

We have had many families who have kept children at home because their child has developed a cough or a cold which has been eminently sensible in these first tentative days. Many have sought COVID tests but these have been very hard to come by and usually, the sniffle and cough has gone as a cold does but the families have to remain isolated which is frustrating and needless.

My advice to families, in line with other schools, is

- if you think your child has a cold and it's taking the form that a cold usually would, they are well enough to be in school. If they have a cough that is a 'clearing' type productive cough, this is OK too.
- If they have a temperature **and** a cold – they should remain at home until they are well enough to return
- If they have a temperature (37.9°C or over) with no cold symptoms and/or a new continuous cough plus perhaps a lack of taste or smell, please phone 111 and ask advice.

This is my considered advice, as a Headteacher, following guidance from PHE and the DfE but I am not a medically trained professional. You as parents are the best judge of whether your child is showing signs of COVID or a cold as you know their 'normal'. Please always refer back to your doctor if at all unsure.

Developing symptoms in school

If your child develops symptoms in school that may lead us to think they are COVID related, we will call you immediately and expect you to collect your child immediately. We will remove your child from class and ensure they

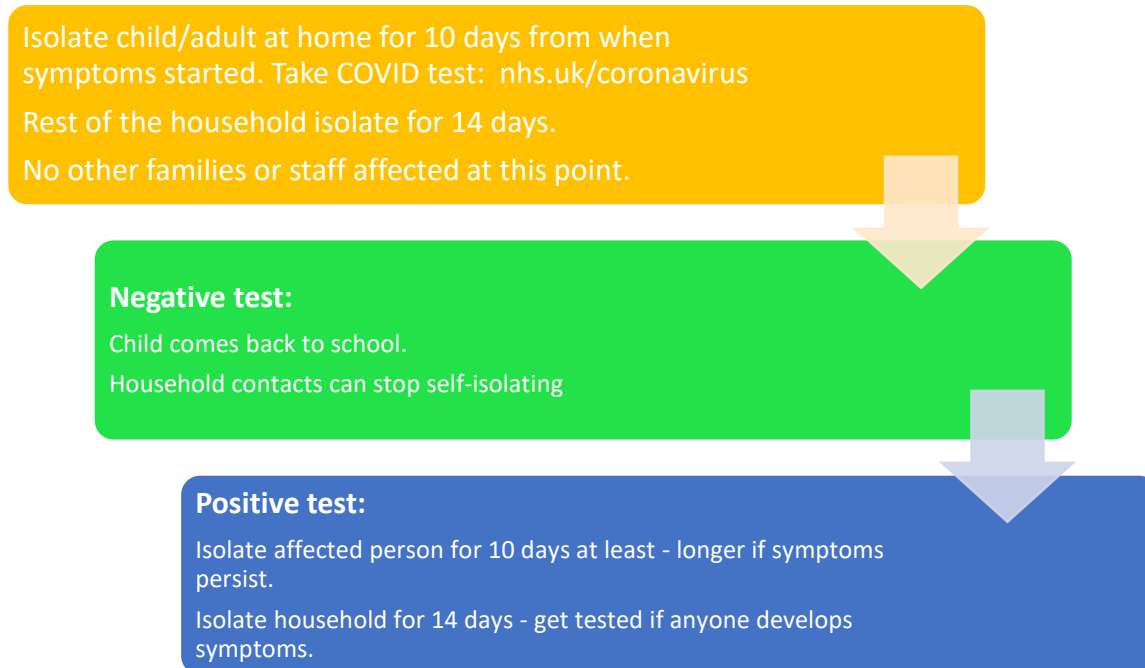
have reading books and some work books so that they can work at home in case of a prolonged absence. During this time, there will be an adult overseeing their care who will be wearing full PPE. We will be trying to keep 2m distance at all times. We have talked to the children about this so that they are not worried.

We would advise you to get a COVID test in this instance.

If a member of staff develops symptoms, they will immediately be sent home and will get a COVID test.

Then what...?

If you or your child develops symptoms, please follow these steps carefully;



What if...?

I'm contacted by NHS Test & Trace? Follow their guidance. Depending on the level of contact you've had with the infected person, you may be advised to notify us as it might affect your child's bubble. It's likely not to however.

We have a positive test in school (adult or child)...? We will be given clear guidance from the local Health Protection Team (HPT). This may mean a short closure of a bubble for deep cleaning, it may mean a bubble isolating for 14 days or it might mean whole school closure. We won't know until we're in that situation and receive personalized guidance depending on the situation. THE SMALLER WE ALL MAKE OUR SOCIAL BUBBLES AND CONTACTS, THE LESS LIKELY THIS IS TO HAPPEN.

I or another member of my family have symptoms...? Follow the guidance above and isolate the household.

My child is sent home with COVID symptoms but it develops into a cold...? It's probably wisest in this situation to get a test and confirm your/our suspicions.

My child's teacher is off with suspected COVID...? We will have sought guidance from the HPT as to whether the bubble should isolate. This is a real possibility. If they are off and the bubble DON'T have to isolate, it's likely Mrs Jefferies will cover the bubble.

Will we see people in masks on site? Yes. The adult on the gates on a morning will wear one from Monday 21st Sept. We will also ask all visitors such as contractors, school nurse team, outside agencies etc to wear a face covering. Staff will wear one if meeting with a visitor inside. As much as the children are used to seeing people wear masks, we will be talking to them on Friday about this, ready for Monday.

What about their learning?

Whilst pre-school learning doesn't look the same as school based learning for the older children, we are committed to supporting you in the event of a lockdown. We will use Tapestry as a medium for communicating activities and keeping records of your child's learning so please do make sure over the next week or so that you've downloaded the Tapestry app and got logged in.

As a final note from me....please be responsible! If you receive a text from track and trace or you suspect COVID in your child or someone dropping off or picking up, do not ignore it and put other children and staff at risk, however much this may inconvenience you and your family. We all need to work together to keep our community safe and have collectively done a great job of this so far.

Thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Jefferies