

LAs COVID - 19 Update 2

Summer term 2 2020

COVID-19 and everyone's unique situation.

Thank you for your honest responses to our email and your updates re your own situations, returning to work plans, returning to school thoughts and feelings and outlining your flexibility too. We are working from advice given by Public Health England (PHE), Governmental guidance, Department for Education and Surrey CC. It includes risk assessments, Planning Guide for Early Years and Childcare Settings, and Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Who Are Clinically Vulnerable. As we prepare for opening we have had to consider who we have at the setting, and how many, how they arrive and leave, how they play at the setting, when and how often we clean, and how they eat, sleep and toilet during their stay. We have also asked ourselves how this fits in with the rest of the family, particularly as each change is announced. We outline below our considerations for reducing risk to keep children safe in a family home. They will evolve, we understand that, but in order to make a start, we are sharing some of our ideas so far.

Our Role

Sharing, hugs, and working together are our bread and butter! We will be as positive as possible and understand that many of the changes we make appear to be in complete contradiction to the values and skills that we nurture in our children. We thoughtfully consider our role and are determined that the changes we make will be explained to children through story, games, song, repetition and demonstration with regards to social distancing, staggered eating, handwashing, coughing, nose blowing, being outside, mouthing toys, toileting, dropping off /picking up. Like nursery, we will operate a key worker system.

Drop off and Pick Up

A mat 'line' outside the door will indicate where parents should stand, encouraging children to come in on their own.

Please place bags on the chair by the mat.

Some children may need to use the grass area as a transition, with the children playing there, adults at 2m, and a natural 'hand over' happening with a parent leaving and us stepping in. Staggered start times will ensure that children do not arrive at the same time, allowing social distancing.

Designated pick up times will be agreed and followed to prevent any overlap and encourage social distancing.

A shorter working day will be needed in order to thoroughly clean daily the shared areas before family use the space.

Outside

We will remove sand trays, and individual/turn taking items. Multiple toys will be used and allocated, items used will then be out of bounds until wiped down.

Toys will be limited in choice to prevent everything being touched in a small space of time and removed for cleaning. Playing with natural items is unlimited, so mud, sticks, branches, leaves, seeds, plants, bug homes, planks, logs, double mud kitchen etc will absolutely fine! Hurray!

We will keep an area free for safe family use.

Eating

We will follow food hygiene guidance when handling and preparing food, for each child independently.

Each child will have their own crockery and cutlery as usual, but just with no sharing plates or bowls.

Children will be sat separately, or outside if weather allows. Packed lunch boxes will be encouraged.

Indoors

- The physical layout of our inside rooms allows us to have 2 children safely using one room, encouraging children to walk in a one way system to the toilet or the kitchen.
- We will be encouraging children to play outside whenever the weather allows, in a bid to reduce daily deep cleaning tasks.
- All soft covered toys, play dough and sand trays will be removed.
- All toys and resources that are shared amongst children will be removed i.e. crayons, pencils, scissors.
- Choices will be reduced to prevent toys from being taken out at the same time. Children will be offered a limited choice to enable cleaning to take place between games.
- Baskets of washable toys will be rotated with cleaning in between. We will indicate when swapping can happen.
- Children will be encouraged to play on their own ideas, we will be positive and at distance encourage parallel play where possible with multiple toys/bases.

Toileting and Hand Washing

Usual individual toilet/towel use will be maintained. Cleaning the area thoroughly between uses. Including door knobs, handles, flushes, taps, sink etc. Children will be allocated their own potty if necessary. Frequent hand washing will be encouraged indoors and outdoors, singing Twinkle Twinkle, or Happy Birthday x 2. Posters will remind children to do this as will their adult.

Plans to re-open...

We aim to watch changes very closely for 2 weeks and judge when it will be best to reopen to parents who require childcare, 2 children per day. We are balancing opening with shielding responsibilities which, although change tomorrow, continue to dictate the speed and implementation of our plans. We will review the lifting of restrictions and the impact this is having before we are able to open partially. We will keep an open dialogue with you, and we ask that you keep us up to date with your needs too.