



As part of national social distancing measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Sandhurst Nursery School Management Team have taken action to reduce, as far as possible, the risk of spreading the virus within our childcare setting.

We re-opened in September 2020 and in the Spring Term on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 we opened in full for all those families who wished to return to the nursery school. We are able to offer childcare to all children under the age of 5. We have put in place risk assessments and follow government guidelines and advice to reduce the risk of infection to a minimum. The safety of children in our care, their families and the staff team are our utmost priority.

The following rules and guidelines are in place and will be reviewed on a regular basis:-

1. **Risk Assessment**: We continue to review our risk assessments and copies are available for parents, visitors and nursery staff. A risk assessment will directly address the risks associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19) so that sensible measures can be put in place to control those risks for children and families/visitors attending the setting including the staff and trustee management team.
2. **Minimising the Risk: From January 2022** we will continue to minimise the risk of spreading the virus within the setting by:
  - a) Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms: this will rely on parents also being very honest with regard to keeping children away from the setting if they have knowingly come into close contact with anyone who has subsequently developed Covid-19 symptoms. This also means that any child who is unwell and has a high temperature should remain at home until they are well enough to return to nursery. Children with coughs and colds no longer need to stay at home unless the parents/carers choose to be cautious and consider that their child is too unwell to attend nursery. This will help to keep safe all the children and adults in the setting. All practitioners working in the nursery will be responsible for taking a lateral flow test twice a week until they are advised otherwise by the nursery who will follow government guidelines.
  - b) Practising frequent handwashing/sanitising within the setting and upholding the highest basic hygiene practises. The practitioners will continue to ensure that all children will be washing and sanitising their hands frequently during the day. The practitioners will also be washing and sanitising their hands frequently during the day.
  - c) From the beginning of Term 4, February 2022, all handovers of children will now be carried out at the entrance to each nursery room, i.e. Sunshine Room for the youngest children and Rainbow Room for the older nursery children. Parents will have notice of which room their children are based in for their nursery sessions. Parents will be permitted to come into corridor area of the nursery school, using the hand sanitiser provided in the reception area, and they will be greeted by an early year's practitioner at the nursery room door. When collecting children at the end of the session/day parents will continue to be encouraged to socially distance along the path which leads up to the wooden gates beside the nursery building and then up the ramp path beside the nursery reception area. We will no longer be using the staggered departure times so the end of the sessions are 11.30, 12.30 and 3.30 pm.
  - d) The younger children can continue to bring comforters in from home but care and attention will be given to where the comforters are kept in order to prevent the spread of the virus.
  - e) Children will have their own water bottles for use when they are here. They must have the child's initials on and we will keep the bottles here and ensure they are



hygienically cleaned and stored for the child's next session. Snack time and lunch time will return to normal and the usual hygiene rules and procedures will continue throughout these sessions.

- f) Practitioners will no longer be wearing masks.
  - g) Gloves are not as good as washing hands frequently but they will be used whenever we believe it is necessary and for the usual practice of hygiene. Children will continue to be encouraged to change their own clothes which is good practice for them, unless they are very young, but we will help where necessary and we will use gloves and aprons where necessary.
3. **Attendance:** Children and adults with coronavirus symptoms/coronavirus will isolate at home under the current government guidelines. We rely heavily upon the honesty of parents in this matter. If a child or anyone in the household or any parents have been in close contact with anyone who develops symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) parents must inform the manager/deputy manager straight away. A decision will then be made as to whether we should inform all the other families and arrange testing for the staff team. The current government guidelines are under review regularly. Visitors to the nursery school will still be required to complete a visitor's questionnaire with regard to Covid-19.
4. **Payment of Fees with regard to paragraph 3 Attendance above:** Consideration will be given, on an individual basis, with regard to payment of fees if a child or children do not attend the nursery due to the circumstances described in paragraph 3 above. All parents should make requests regarding the refund of fees to the Manager. Please refer to our Payment of Fees Policy which contains information regarding the refund of fees but in the unusual circumstances we are all currently experiencing due to Covid-19 and the financial impact the virus is having on all early years' settings and their families all individual situations will be considered.
5. **The Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing:** We will continue to talk to the children about the need to wash our hands more often and looking after our health and our families health. We do not want them worried or frightened and we will answer any questions openly and as honestly as we can. We are re-introducing more group activities, i.e. music and movement, more interactive story times, puppet stories but we will continue to remain aware of the need for more spacial awareness between the children when they are enjoying being able to sit together again in bigger groups.