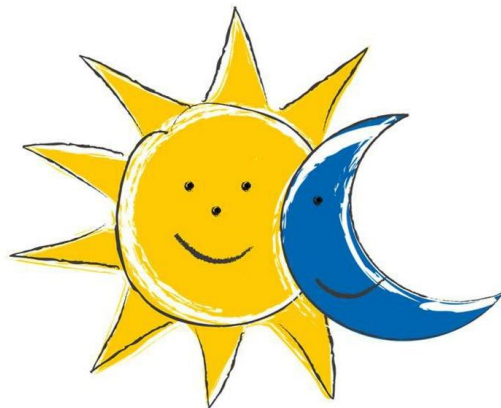


Menston Preschool

COVID19

Guide for Parents



Menston
Preschool
learningthroughplay

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1. Welcoming children and families to Preschool

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic has affected everyone. We understand that current times will have been challenging for many of you.

At Preschool the health and safety of the children, families, and staff is paramount. We have had to put many new procedures in place, and we hope that this guide helps you to understand how things will look for your child.

We will do everything we can to make your child's experience as happy as we possibly can, whilst following the strict guidance we have been given.

This guide may appear quite intense, but we do have to be upfront and honest with you before your child attends Preschool. Whilst we can minimise risk by following guidance, we cannot eliminate it.

2. Covid-19 Symptoms – Minimising contact

The symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A new and continuous cough
- A high temperature 37.8°C or above
- Loss or change to your sense of taste or smell

Please familiarise yourself with this government guidance:

[What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend Preschool.

Only an adult who is symptom free or has completed the required isolation period should bring/collect their child.

Please ensure that, wherever possible, the same adult, from your household, brings/collects your child.

On arrival at Preschool, we feel it is reasonable to ask if parents, children, or any member of the household have any of the symptoms of COVID-19. If the answer is yes, you will not be able to leave your child at Preschool.

Should a child begin to demonstrate symptoms throughout the day, the main parent will be contacted immediately to collect their child. The child will wait in an isolated zone, along with a staff member wearing PPE. This is to minimise risk; however, the child will be made to feel as safe and secure as possible.

Any child presenting symptoms should be tested for Covid-19. Whilst awaiting the test both the child and their families must isolate for **10 days** for the child and for the rest of the family. If a test comes back positive you must inform Preschool immediately so that we can inform the rest of the families and staff. If a test is negative the child may return to Preschool and the isolation period can end.

3. Arriving/Leaving routines

We are asking that, wherever possible, the same adult, from your household brings/collects your child.

We recommend that you DO NOT use public transport to get to Preschool. Travelling by foot or, if this is not possible, your own car is best. Please be very careful in the car park, always keep hold of your child's hand when out of your vehicle and practice good road safety awareness. Ride Away, the taxi company who park in the car park, have been informed that Preschool is open, and they are aware that more pedestrians will be in the car park.

To support with social distancing between adults, we have extended the drop off and pick-up window. These times will be:

Drop off: 8:55am - 9:10am

Pick up: 2:45pm - 3:00pm

In the morning we will ask all families to wait outside in the car park. You should wait within the yellow marked pedestrian area, along the edge of the car park only. We would ask that you wait at the bottom of the ramp at a distance of at least 2 metres apart. We will supply cones to assist with this.

A member of staff, with a huge smile, will come down the ramp to collect your child. They will then be taken into the toilets where they will be assisted by a second member of staff with washing their hands for 20 seconds. There will be further staff members in the main room ready to welcome your child to play. This will be repeated until all the children are safely in.

Parents and visitors will only be allowed into the building in exceptional circumstances.

If your child is very distressed, we ask that you wait until we have safely received the rest of the children and then we can help support you and your child.

The end of the day will be the same process, with children coming out, with one staff member, one at a time.

We will avoid getting parents to sign essential forms such as accidents/existing injuries. Instead, we will verbally feedback anything we notice or any accidents which occur at Preschool. This will be marked down as a verbal agreement of these accidents/injuries. If an accident or existing injury is deemed to be more serious, we will contact you verbally during the day.

Please do not expect the verbal feedback at the end of the session to be as it was before. This will be kept to brief comments as handover occurs. The staff's main aim will be to ensure the children's hands are clean before leaving the building. Families will then be expected to leave to allow social distancing space for other children to come out. General feedback about the day will be given via phonecall or email and, as always, any questions will be answered via that means too.

4. Social Distancing

This has been the most difficult part of our plan to consider. The government guidance for early years clearly states that young children cannot be expected to socially distance but, that efforts should be made to try. The staff will practice social distancing from each other wherever possible.

We know that children may need affection and we will always offer that. However, we will be more mindful of their very close contact with their peers and will remind them in child-friendly way to remember their own space if we feel it's needed. You could talk to your child about very close contact, kissing etc.

We, as staff, will also have to deal with toileting accidents and injuries so will need at times to be very close to your child. Gloves and aprons will be worn during these occasions.

Structured routines such as toileting, snack, lunch, and story/singing time are all being planned with some social distancing in mind. Please can we ask that at drop off/pick up times you always practice social distancing of 2m. Thank you.

5. Hygiene

Hand washing is an essential part of keeping us safe currently.

The children and staff will practice excellent hand washing at set times throughout the day. These will include - entering the building, leaving the building, coming in from outside, before and after snack, before and after lunch. We will also ensure that hands are washed, and hand sanitiser is used frequently. A member of staff will be allocated the role of ensuring this happens. **Please let us know if you do not want your child to use hand sanitiser.**

The staff member collecting and returning the children at the start and end of the day will use hand sanitiser between every child they collect/return.

We have a large stock of both hand wash and hand sanitiser. We also have disposable gloves, aprons and facial PPE should we need to use these.

We would ask that your hygiene at home also replicates that of Preschools in order to minimise risk further. This should involve ensuring you and your family your hands for 20 seconds. Thank you.

We will encourage children to use tissues for wiping, sneezing, coughing etc and to put these straight in the bin afterwards.

6. Cleaning

As well as cleaning the Preschool thoroughly at the end of the day, guidance informs us that cleaning of resources and frequently touched surfaces etc should take place regularly throughout the day. The resources children use, work surfaces, tables, chairs, taps, toilets, door handles etc will all be cleaned and disinfected on a very regular basis.

The outdoor equipment, including the climbing frame, will also be cleaned throughout the day and at the end of each day.

The products we use whilst the children are in setting will be safe for that use.

7. Resources/Outdoor Play

For now, as guidance suggests, we will not use the large outside sandpit or play dough. We will use water during play outside for painting, pouring etc.

We have also been advised to remove all dressing up, cuddly toys and soft furnishings. We ask that cuddly toys or dressing up are not brought in from home.

Given the evidence about how Covid-19 transmits outside, outdoor play will be encouraged as much as possible. We now have the benefit of the canopy which can offer shade, and, on wetter days, shelter.

The outside area will offer the climbing frame, trikes, loose parts, chalk, water, dinosaurs, space to move freely and, most importantly, fresh air and nature.

When inside ventilation will be a high priority with windows and doors being open wherever safely possible.

8. What should my child bring/wear?

- A clearly named water bottle – we will not be sharing cups; therefore, your child must bring a large, filled water bottle. These will be stored in a clean crate and used both inside and outside throughout the day. If these need refilling, then they will be cleaned thoroughly first and done so by a member of staff.
- For those attending full days: A **named** packed lunch – we do not have the facilities to provide lunches at Preschool. Please can you make sure your child's lunch contains items that are easy for them to open and that you know they will eat. We do ask that you continue NOT to include nuts within these lunches due to allergies.
- Please dress your child in clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor play.
- Please provide a clearly **named** coat.
- Trainers or other sensible shoes should be worn as we will not be asking to change into indoor shoes/pumps.

Please do not allow your child to bring any other items than those stated to Preschool at this time. We have enough things for them to play with/enjoy.

The children will also not be bringing pictures etc home with them, however we can display these and take photos to share with you.

We hope that this guide is helpful and reassuring to you. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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