**What will preschool be like in September?**

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There have been many changes and lifting of restrictions from the GOV. guidance over the Summer and we have reflected on these, revised our risk assessment, outbreak plan and routines and these are the main points:

*(The full revised documents can be found on our website under policies and procedure – New COVID procedures and Outbreak Plan’)*

***\*\*You may want to talk through these changes with your child as it will seem VERY different to them when they return. Check out the Video on Tapestry & FB ‘Special agent Quirky!’.***

**Bubbles/groups:**

* The preschool will run as one group as before, there will be no bubbles unless advised to do so.
* Staff will work alongside each other.

**Toilets**

* We will return to using the ladies toilet for all children and the gents for staff.

**Drop off and collection:**

**In the playground**

* You are not required to wear a face covering, this optional.
* You are advised to keep at a safe distance from others.
* There will be no cones for queuing.

**Entrance and exit**

* The entrance and exit will remain at the front door with the door gate in place.
* If the door is closed there will be a door bell to ring for our attention.

**Registration of children arriving**

* There will be a registration table set up (as in old times for those who remember!) Children will be greeted and signed in.
* Children will take their bags and coats to their peg.
* Parents are welcome to join their children at the registration table or you can drop off at the door. You can then have a chance to speak to a member of staff and relay any messages you may have.
* We ask for a maximum of 3 adults at the registration table.
* Parents will be asked to wait at the entrance door with their child until their turn. This is to avoid congestion and ensure security.

**Collection times**

* At 12pm and 1pm collection the gate will be opened when the first parent arrives and rings the bell.
* At 3:30pm the gate will be opened at 3:15pm.

**Snacks and lunches**

* Children will continue to bring their own lunches and drinks bottles.
* Children will continue to bring a morning and afternoon snack box. On occasions we will now be providing a small fresh fruit and/or vegetable snack where children will be involved in a group in the preparation and use of cutlery.
* We will be providing jugs of water and continue to offer milk at snack time.

PLEASE NAME ALL DRINKS BOTTLES AND SNACK/LUNCH BOXES!

**Spare clothes/nappy bag**

* Please continue to provide a named bag with nappy supplies (when applicable). This will go home every-day from now on due to storage restrictions.
* Please provide a named bag with spare clothes if you feel necessary (such as; just toilet trained or you would prefer we changed your child in the clothes provided after water play) We do have some spare clothes at preschool.

**COVID and illness reporting and procedures**

* Children must not attend preschool following the ‘Child sickness policy’ and the section in ‘Health & Hygiene Policy’. These can be found on the website.
* Parent must continue to inform us in the morning if their child is not attending and the reason. We will follow on with a phone call if we have had no notification.
* Please report to us of any COVID symptoms and/or results as soon as possible. If it is a positive test, we are required to report this to OFSTED and the PCC and so we can manage any possible outbreak.
* Children (and staff) with any COVID symptoms must remain home and get a PCR test. They can return if the test is negative.
* Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:
* they are fully vaccinated.
* they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
* they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
* they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

**Preschool will require children to take a PCR test if advised to do so by NHS test and trace as a close contact and can only return once the test is received as negative and they are well, or they have completed their isolation period AND have no continued symptoms, sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours.**

**Parents or person dropping off and collecting their child who are from the same household as a positive test and have no symptoms, will be asked not to enter preschool or can wear a mask if entering is necessary. If they have been advised to take a PCR test we would advise this too.**

**NEW Early Years Framework and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

From September a new OFSTED framework has been introduced and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS Curriculum)

**Why the changes are happening?**

The changes to the EYFS statutory framework are being made to:

* improve outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy
* reduce workload such as unnecessary paperwork, so we can spend more time with the children in our care to teach through play experiences.

**What are the changes within the Framework?**

The 7 areas of learning and development remain the same.

The 3 prime areas are:

* communication and language
* physical development
* personal, social and emotional development

The 4 specific areas are:

* literacy
* maths
* understanding the world
* expressive arts and design

The changes are

* there is a new focus on early language and extending vocabulary, with more embed and development of vocabulary skills across all 7 areas.
* There will be a new requirement to promote the good oral health of children.

**Tapestry**

This may look a little different to parents as we move into the new EYFS 2021. As part of the changes to the framework we are expected by OFSTED to do less paperwork and spend more time with the children to enhance their ‘in the moment learning’ and deliver individual planned activities, which is a great move forward! To achieve this….

We will have less observations/photos with assessments attached but we endeavor to continue to send photos of general achievements and wow moments that we know you would like to see and the children would like to share!

Key persons will send you their planned steps for your child and how you can support this from home. We will continue to ask that you send observations and wow moments to us from home so we can work together in your child’s development and interests.

**To conclude**

We are thrilled to be able to return to one group and see a relaxed approach to parents being able to be more involved and interactive within the setting. See the fun Quirky clip (on FB & Tapestry) to help explain to your child at home.

The new introduction of the EYFS is going to be a learning curve for all our practitioners but an exciting one.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me before we return.

Kerry and the team.