

21st May 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements for the possible re-opening of our Nursery.

As you will be aware the government have announced the intention to start a phased reopening of all schools from the 1 June with the youngest children returning first. This is dependent on the five tests that the government have set being met, including that the rate of infection is decreasing. We expect the government to announce if these targets have been met at the end of May and therefore, to ensure we are prepared, we have been putting together our plan for the potential return of more children.

The government has asked Nursery schools to plan to return children in the following order:

- Priority groups including - children of critical key workers and vulnerable children
- Four years olds due to move to Primary School in September
- Three year olds
- Two year olds

To ensure we can reduce the risk to children, families and staff it is essential that we implement measures based on the latest government guidance and recognise the challenges of expecting young children to socially distance. The government has produced guidance for schools on the introduction of prevention measures which include:

- Limiting contact by creating small groups of children that do not mix
- Introducing staggered start and finish times
- Removing all soft play equipment and furnishings and reducing the amount of equipment children have access to
- Increase the cleaning regime and ensuring frequent hand washing

We recognise that our children will not be able to maintain social distancing. Young children learn through play and hands on practical activities and the desire to play with their friends will outweigh any instruction we give them to keep 2m apart. It is therefore essential that we implement a wide range of measures that will reduce the number of other children your child will have contact with.

Preventative Measures

Small groups

Children will be placed in small groups of no more than 7 children with one key worker. It is likely that your child will have a new key worker and be with a new group of friends. This groups will be kept apart to reduce the amount of contacts children and staff have.



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Email: bilstonnurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Head Teacher: Miss E Smith**



Changes to the classrooms

To reduce the number of contacts children have the existing rooms will be divided to create 'mini classrooms' to separate each group. Children will remain in their designated 'mini classroom' at all times and free flow around the nursery will no longer be possible.

Staggered start and finish times

The start and finish times for each group will be staggered to prevent large numbers of children and adults congregating at the school entrance. Your child will be given an allocated start and collection time.

Increased Cleaning

After each nursery session, staff will clean the furniture and equipment within each 'mini classroom' before the next group attend. To enable this to happen nursery session times will be reduced to 2 hours 20 mins.

Outside play

Outdoor play will be staggered and each group will have an allocated time to play outdoors. Only one group at a time will be allowed to play outdoors to prevent mixing.

Access to the school site

The government has given clear advice to schools about the movement of parents around school sites and we have taken this into account. Parents will not be allowed into the school building.

Due to the narrow walkways into the school grounds a one-way system will be introduced at drop off and collection times.

Parents will be expected to follow this guidance:

- You must not enter the school site if you are unwell or have any coronavirus symptoms
- Only one parent can accompany a child to school.
- You must enter the site through the car park gates.
- Markers will be provided on the car park to ensure 2m distancing from other parents. As one parent moves forward to drop off/collect their child move forward to the next marker.
- Children must remain with you at all times and not allowed to run around the carpark to maintain social distancing.
- After dropping off your child you must leave via the pedestrian gate.
- You must only be on site at the times designated for your child's drop off or collection. We will not be able to accept children who are late to prevent movement of children through other groups in the Nursery.



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Reduced sessions

Due to the restricted space and need to create separate areas for each group we will not be able to accommodate all our children at the same time. The government has asked us prioritise children of critical key workers and vulnerable children. These children have continued to attend school during the lock down and they will continue to attend school every day.

We will be welcoming back our other children on a rota basis and, depending on demand, we aim to offer two or three sessions per week. Once final numbers of children attending is confirmed, parents will be notified of their child's allocated sessions.

We have been asked to prioritise our oldest children first. We aim to offer places for our Two year olds as soon as we can but it is likely to be a few more weeks before we can welcome any of our two year olds back to Nursery.

Personal Belongings

To reduce movement around the Nursery children will not be able to access the normal cloakroom areas so belongings will be kept in children's 'mini classroom' areas. As this space is reduced we are asking parents to reduce the number of personal belongings children bring into school. In the event of good weather please do not send you child's coat into school. If your child needs medication or nappies please send these in at the beginning of the week.

Dealing with illness

If a child is taken ill with coronavirus symptoms they will be isolated in a separate room until they can be collected. In the event that a child has a confirmed case of coronavirus all the children in their group and their families will be required to isolate for 14 days. Parents must notify us immediately if their child or anyone in their family has developed symptoms of coronavirus so that we can take appropriate action to reduce any further spread of the virus.

We will continue to follow the normal guidelines if children become ill with normal childhood illnesses such as sickness or chicken pox. If your child is unwell with a common illness please notify the school via the school app.

Next Steps

We have already contacted all of our parents to get an idea of how many children may be returning. We now need you to confirm if you want your child to attend.

If you require a place for your child please email the school at bilstonnurseryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk or telephone the school between 8.30 – 3pm on Friday.



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We will write to parents on the 29th May after the government announcement to confirm each child's return date and session times therefore we need parents to confirm they want a place by 4pm this Friday if contacting us by telephone or by Wednesday 27th May if contacting us by email.

If you are unable to contact us by these dates, the school office will reopen after half-term on Tuesday 2nd June and we will offer your child a place to start after 8th June.

If you choose to keep your child at home we will continue to provide home learning activities on our app and school web-site.

There is a lot of information for parents so if you have any questions or would like anything clarifying please do not hesitate to email the school and we will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your continued support in this unprecedented times. Let's hope we can all get back to normal soon.

Stay alert to stay safe.

Kind regards

Kind regards

Miss Emma Smith
Head Teacher

