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Date: 13th August 2021



Head Teacher
Mrs Mary O'Brien
Education & Families
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Crowwood Crescent
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Arrangements for Returning to Nursery - August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new nursery year! I hope you and your families are all safe and well and I hope you have enjoyed the fantastic weather we have experienced this summer.

I am pleased to communicate our plans and advice ahead of our pupil's return to nursery next week. These plans have been formed taking direction from the Scottish Government's most recent guidance and the advice of North Lanarkshire Council. I apologise in advance for such a lengthy piece of communication, but I know you will understand the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff is of paramount importance.

The following arrangements are to support a safe return to for all children and staff. Please be aware that these may be subject to further change in the coming weeks, and our guidance and procedures will be closely monitored, reviewed, and updated as necessary.

A reminder of Our Team

Our nursery team consists of:

- Miss Karen Houston – Lead Early Years Practitioner
- Mrs Gillian Buchanan – Early Years Practitioner
- Miss Claire Veldon – Early Years Practitioner
- Mrs Sharon Quate – Early Years Practitioner
- Mrs Laura O'Donnell – Support Worker

Risk Assessment

The nursery environment has been fully risk assessed and our plans adhere to the latest guidance. Staff and children who develop the symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), or who test positive using PCR tests or Lateral Flow Device (LFD), must self-isolate immediately in line with current guidance from the NHS.



Derek Brown, Assistant Chief Executive, Education and Families, Civic Centre, Motherwell, ML1 1AB

Service and People First

We will continue to work closely with our public health team, who are responsible for advising schools, nurseries and the council about what should happen if there is an outbreak of coronavirus.

Hygiene Measures

The key personal hygiene measures that all children and staff should follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection are:

- frequent washing of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before/after eating and after using the toilet.
- encouraging children, young people and staff to avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose.
- using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze, and use bins that are emptied regularly for tissue waste.

It will be the **responsibility of every individual** to observe good hygiene practice to minimise the risk of infection.

Physical Distancing

There is no requirement for physical distancing between children in nursery. Further mitigations in place, include:

- We will continue to discourage physical contact (hand to hand greetings).
- We will continue to use all the available space in the playroom and outdoors.
- We will continue to operate a keep left policy in all areas of the school.
- Physical distancing between adults, who are not from the same household, will be maintained.
- Parents and carers should continue to maintain their distance from other households when dropping off or collecting their child from nursery.

Face Coverings

- Anyone adult wishing to wear a face covering in any part of the nursery/school will be permitted to do so.
- Adults should wear face coverings wherever they cannot keep physical distance with other adults and/or children.
- Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors at the school (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents at drop-off and pick-up.

Clothing and Materials

Our nursery has a red sweatshirt and navy polo shirt (both with logo) available to purchase from Scotcrest, but this is not a requirement. However, we do recommend that your child wears comfortable clothing to nursery to facilitate the active play throughout the day that your child will engage in. Clothing can end up with paint, playdough and even a bit of mud on it. We encourage the children to explore and be as creative as they can so this can mean they get a little messy.

It would be very helpful for staff during entry and exit times if, where possible, shoes with laces could be avoided. I appreciate this will not always be possible but where it is this would help significantly.

Staff will be utilising our outdoor space with the children – no matter the weather. In Scotland that can be rays of sunshine, wind, rain or snow – sometimes all in the one day! In order to facilitate outdoor learning, each child has their own waterproof suit for individual use – these will not be shared. However, please provide the nursery with a pair of wellies that can stay in nursery and also

ensure your child comes to nursery with warm clothing suitable for outdoor play in all weathers. On warm, sunny days please ensure your child has sunscreen on.

Please provide your child with a spare change of clothes and indoor shoes which will be kept in the nursery. Please provide these items at the earliest possible opportunity when your child returns to nursery.

To minimise risk, children should not bring any personal belongings such as teddies or toys from home.

Contact with the Nursery

Please note that parents and carers **will not be permitted** to access our nursery building unless in exceptional circumstances and with prior arrangement being made with me.

Illness

Our nursery absence/sickness policy is as follows (based on NHS guidance):

- Any child who is unwell should remain at home until they are well again.
- Children with vomiting/diarrhea should stay at home until they have had no symptoms for 48 hours after an episode.
- Runny noses are not necessarily a reason to stay at home but if your child is unwell then they should stay at home until they are well again.
- Skin rashes should be professionally diagnosed and a child need only stay at home if advised by a health professional.

If your child is unwell then please call the school office to provide an update of your child's absence and why, and expected return date if known.

Drop off and collection

The structure of the nursery day, along with drop off and collection arrangements, remains the same as last term. Our nursery hours are currently 8.40am to 2.40pm. Children should arrive for nursery at 8.40am and enter through the main gate or Crown Street gate, accompanied by one adult only, and wait in the infant yard (outside nursery entrance). At collection time parents should wait in the infant yard and nursery staff will bring your child out to you. Please ensure you maintain your distance from other adults and children whilst on our nursery/school grounds. Please exit the nursery/school grounds immediately after dropping off or collecting your child.

Please do not stop/park cars on the yellow zig zag lines. If you have parked your car on the street outside the gates then please remain stationary whilst children are exiting to ensure all children can exit safely without the danger of moving cars. Children exiting nursery only takes a few minutes so I ask for your patience. Once you have collected your own child please check that no children are exiting before driving away.

If you are using Crown Street gate then I urge you to be mindful of our neighbours. Please do not park directly in front of the gate or on the 'Keep Clear' signs. This can cause a danger to our pupils and difficulties for our neighbours.

If a family member or childminder is dropping off or collecting your child then please make sure they are fully aware of these arrangements.

Please be assured that I am doing everything I can, within the current guidelines and advice, to ensure your child is fully supported on his/her return to nursery.

As always, if any matter gives you a cause for concern then please do let me or a member of the staff team know. As a reminder, I am now using my married name of Mrs O'Brien and our new contact details for the Senior Management Team are: Mrs O'Brien gw16mccreerymary@glow.sch.uk and Mrs Campbell, PT, gw09campbellcatheri9.sch.uk.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and co-operation in all nursery matters. We are all so excited to see the children back in nursery with us next week.

I look forward to working in partnership with you again this session.

Kind Regards,

Mary O'Brien

Head Teacher