



# Shetland Islands Council

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3 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Updated Nursery Provision

Following on from the Scottish Government update on 30 July and information sent to you from Samantha Flaws (central ELC team) dated 31 July, it is now the intention that the 'interim arrangements' explained in my letter dated 24 July are to be in place until **Friday 28 August**.

As of **Monday 31 August**, your child's hours will revert to those issued to you in your ELC placement letter from late June based on the preferences you supplied in February's registration week. This is, of course, provided that virus levels remain low. If there are any further changes related to this you will be informed as soon as possible.

Your child's start date and session times remain the same as listed in my previous letter, until Friday 28 August, unless you have been contacted separately to this letter. Our new preschoolers (those in their second year of nursery) will return on 17 August and our August start ante-preschoolers (those in their first year of nursery) will begin Nursery staggered across the week beginning 24 August.

## Updates to Existing Guidance

We have been issued with updated guidance from the central ELC team which relaxes some of the restrictions previously put in place for the interim period:

- Cohort groups of 8 are still recommended but may be slightly larger if necessary
- Blended/split placements are now allowed where necessary - those affected should contact their childminder to arrange their pattern/childcare needs
- From Monday 31 August, children can be managed in groups of up to 30 children. This means that for Dunrossness Nursery all children can be together in one group using the whole setting.

- If staff members are required to be in face-to-face contact, less than 2m apart, for a period of around 15 minutes or more they are required to use face coverings. Otherwise, staff are not required to wear face coverings unless it is their personal preference to do so.

### Group Locations, Drop Off and Pick Up and Settling In Time

I will send a final letter during the week beginning 10 August to let families know which spaces in the nursery their child will be using during the interim period, along with drop off and pick up information/areas. It is strongly advised that drop off and pick ups are to be made outdoors and that parents should not enter the building where at all possible. This also means that any transition support/settling in time, where a parent stays to support their child settle, should take place outdoors and away from other children.

Please bear in mind the following information which still applies to the nursery arrangements:

- Physical distancing: Physical distancing between children and between children and staff are not required. Physical distancing of 2m between **all adults including staff, parents and visitors** is in place; please make every effort to adhere to this fully
- Flexibility of Session Times: Families can opt to be flexible within their four-hour session and adjustments to days and times can be made. Changes to these times must be pre-planned and follow the same pattern each week. Please email us at the address below to let us know of any alterations you would like to make; for example, if you intend to drop off your child at 8.50am instead of 8.30am, or if they will only attend on certain days. Please be mindful of physical distancing with other parents at drop off and pick up; this may mean waiting for a few minutes before entering the drop off/pick up area if it is busy.
- Outdoor play: Nursery workers are advised to make use of the outdoor environment as fully as possible as virus transmission rates are shown to be lower outdoors. Sessions therefore may be largely outdoors so please ensure your child has suitable outdoor wear for extended periods. A waterproof jacket, pair of wellie boots and spare pair of trousers would suffice. **If providing suitable clothing or footwear for playing outside poses a difficulty for your family, please contact the school or email the Nursery email address and we will be able to help with this.**
- Snack: A snack will be provided during each session. From 31 August, children in the setting over the lunchtime period will be provided with a school meal (likely to be a 'packed lunch' style meal) or can bring their own packed lunch.

National information to parents is available from Parent Club. This can be accessed via <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/early-learning-and-childcare-in-scotland-is-changing>.

If you have any further queries, want to let us know your intentions of days/times your child will attend within their sessions, need a reminder of your session dates and times either for the interim period or once full provision is in place, please contact us and we will

be able to assist you. During the holidays, the best way of contacting the Nursery is by using our email address at [dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk). Please be advised that I will be working from home for the remainder of my pregnancy and my maternity leave is due to start from Monday 14 September. However, I am available to support you with any aspect of your child's nursery experience so please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can assist you with in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Kathleen Mullan

Nursery Teacher  
Dunrossness Primary School