

Acorns Nursery School COVID-19 response policy

The safety and protection of the children, families and staff at Acorns Nursery School is always our number one priority. We all need to work together to make this happen during the pandemic so we are sharing how we will do this in light of the government's current guidance from January 2021.

NURSERY PLACES

- Children are advised to only go to ONE setting, including child minders. If you normally use a child minder or another nursery as well as Acorns you will have to choose ONE of these for your child. This is to reduce the risk of the virus spreading to your children and our staff

DROP OFF AND PICK UP AT ACORNS

Please maintain your social distance with other adults in the car park above nursery.

- **Drop offs:**
 - Nursery staff will collect each child from the car park area. Pedestrians must also wait in the car park area socially distanced from each other.
 - No parents will be allowed onto the path, patio outside nursery, or inside the premises unless by appointment.
 - Hand gel will be dispensed to children on entering the building.
- **Pick ups:**
 - Please maintain your social distance as you wait in the car park.
 - Staff will bring children up to the car park and release them when their parent is seen.
 - Your child will have cleaned their hands with hand gel as they leave the building.
 - Please leave the area as swiftly as possible and do not socialise with other adults please.

Unfortunately, at this time, we will not welcome any unexpected visitors into nursery. If you have need to speak to a member of staff in private, you will need to make an appointment in advance, so that we can ensure social distancing is possible within our setting. You can always email us on acornsnursery@loveyourcommunity.net or phone on 0118 9420475 you might have to leave a message and wait for us to get back to you.

CHILD/FAMILY MEMBER/STAFF SHOWING ILLNESS/SYMPTOMS

Please check the NHS website for details about the virus including the symptoms, self-isolating and how to get tested.

If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Acorns the whole nursery will have to close for the isolation period of 10 days, so please don't send your child into nursery unless you are sure they are well as your actions could impact the whole setting.

- Children must **NOT** come to nursery if they are unwell please! There are a variety of symptoms of COVID-19 so it is not easy to ensure that an illness is not Covid.
- Any child who comes to nursery and appears to be unwell in the opinion of the staff will be sent home.
- Children must not come to nursery if **anyone from their household has symptoms, even if the child is completely well. They may return to nursery once the family has finished their self-isolation of at least 10 days.**
- If you are concerned about symptoms you can ask the NHS to test you and your children for COVID-19. Acorns is not able to arrange testing for you.
- We will tell parents and carers immediately if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at nursery and we will follow the guidance and rules we have been given by Public Health and the NHS.
- If a child shows symptoms at nursery we will separate them from the other children immediately and notify their parent or carer. An adult will look after this child until their carer can come and take them home.

If a staff member shows symptoms we will tell parents and carers immediately. If this happens all the children and staff at that session will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days. The nursery will be deep cleaned before any nursery sessions can restart.

ACORNS TOYS AND EQUIPMENT

- Our toys are colour coded into 4 groups. Each week we will use one group of toys, these will then be returned to the shelves and 'rest' for three weeks until they are used again. This 'rest' period will allow any germs to become inactive.
- Any toys considered to have been heavily used will be cleaned in the dishwasher or steam steriliser after use.
- If there is a confirmed case of Covid 19, all toys in use at that time will be sterilised.
- For the time being, **we will NOT be doing "Show and Tell"** with items brought from home.
- We will not be sending home library books, individual reading books or the chatterboxes for the duration of this lockdown.

HYGIENE

- Children will clean their hands:
 - When they arrive at nursery and before they leave
 - Before snack
 - After using the toilet and blowing their nose. Please encourage your child at home to CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT by using a tissue to blow their nose – not their sleeve or their hand!
 - Any other time that staff see they need to clean their hands.
- Staff will clean the whole nursery at the end of each day following the latest government guidance.
- Staff will continue to assist children who have injured themselves, are upset, or have had a toileting accident. This will happen REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.

NURSERY DAY

Children will NOT be changing their shoes, please make sure that there is a pair of outdoor shoes or wellies which can be LEFT at nursery.

No children's bags will be going home, please replace any loved backpack with a NAMED bag containing a change of clothes. Dirty/soiled clothes will be sent home in a knotted carrier bag.

Snack – especially fruit – MUST be put into a NAMED PLASTIC/PAPER BAG please and **not left inside a lunch bag as this cuts down the need for adults to handle lots of lunch bags. If this does not happen your child will not receive their snack!**

Children MUST be able to carry their lunch and snack in named bags into nursery by themselves.

Children MUST wear warmer clothing – e.g. vest, extra layer such as a cardigan or jumper etc, as we will be leaving windows open to ventilate the premises as per Government guidance.

We all need to work together to keep our children, families and staff safe, so parents must agree to tell the nursery immediately if anyone in their household shows symptoms of COVID-19, before their child can join one of the nursery sessions.

We will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, and any other illness, but Acorns cannot promise this will not happen. Young children cannot obey social distancing rules and the staff are unwilling to enforce these rules with the children. Parents who send their child into Acorns accept that they are doing so **at their own risk** and that Acorns Nursery School cannot be held responsible for any illness that their child might catch at nursery.

We completely understand any parents who decide not to return their child to the nursery immediately, but we hope to see them as soon as it is safe for them to return.

Thank you for your continuing support and for working with us to keep everyone safe.