



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

Little Swans Day
Nursery
June News 2020

Dear parents,

It has been very challenging four months and we are pleased to be welcoming all our families and children back to nursery. We recently sent a letter to all parents requesting start dates for children to return back to nursery using a phased approach. We have had many children return over the past three weeks. We still have two phased dates remaining these are the 6th & 13th July. If you have not confirmed your child's return date please contact the nursery. Holding fees after the 13th July will be non-refundable and held by the nursery as you have decided not to return to nursery. We have had some parents ask about September starts, unfortunately due to sustainability we are unable to extend places until then unless parents choose to continue paying their fees during the period of absence. We have advised parents that we cannot guarantee a place for September as we will be operating at 80 % capacity until the government inform us otherwise. However, we want to support our families as much as possible so please call us and where possible we will try and accommodate your needs if we have the availability. Some of you may have seen the news and the challenges nurseries are facing. Sadly, two local nurseries have closed as a result of the pandemic and we have received enquiries from parents looking for alternative childcare.

Over the past four months I am sure you have all seen lot's correspondence from the nursery regarding changes and learning and development to support children at nursery and home. An amended policy was sent out to all parents regarding the safeguarding that have put in place in relation to the pandemic following government guidance (this was a 24 page document) and nursery review this weekly in accordance to any changes in guidance form the government. We have had many phone calls regarding the policy and it has been lovely to hear such positive feedback and to receive welcome support from our families during these unprecedented times.

Following on from the Newsletter sent in May, these additional / amended changes have been made:

We are continuing to do all that is reasonably expected from us to keep children and adults safe from COVID 19 in terms of staggered breaks, extra vigilance over washing hands, cleaning routines etc... What we do not feel that we can promise though is that your children will socially isolate. We would particularly emphasise that within the early years it will be impossible to socially isolate and where reasonably practical we will adapt our nursery environment.

Children's learning environments: The outdoor areas have now been allocated to bubbles due to the increase in attendance and managing any transmission of germs.

Rolos - Heroes: the astro turf area behind the pre school building

Smarties - Sweeties: the main play area behind the main building

Jelly Babies : the undercover area in front of the Jelly Tots room

Phased Return: Due to the government introducing social bubbles of no more than 16 in Early Years settings the nursery is still only able to operate at 80% capacity. Therefore, the phased approach has been offered to children of key workers, working parents, vulnerable children and children aged 3- 4 years attending for their 15 hours funding.

Children who attend nursery for the two year funding (15 hours) are being invited back into nursery w/c 13th July - 17th July (week prior to the summer holidays). Children attend for this week only will be asked to come into nursery Monday - Friday from 9am - 12pm.

Social Bubbles: Due to the increase in attendance from Monday 6th July and the impact of mixed age bubbles on children's learning and development we have now changed our social bubbles. We have the following social bubbles of no more than 16 children per day:

Jelly Babies - consisting of children from Jelly Babies and Jelly Tots

Smarties- consisting of children from Jelly Tots and Smarties

Sweeties - Rolos - Heroes - consisting of preschool aged children

*Please note at present the Jelly Tots room remains closed and siblings are no longer in the same social bubble as they have been previously.

Will my child have members of staff from their room with them?

We will make sure that there is at least one member of staff from your child's room. This is to ensure children have consistent faces to help them settle back into their routines.

We will have two working rotas at nursery as we extend the morning session from 8am. The staff shift pattern will be 8am - 4.30pm or 8.30am - 5pm.

Meals

Nursery will be opening the kitchen again from Monday 6th July. Karen (nursery cook) will be back at nursery on reduced hours from 9am - 12pm. Children will return to having all meals cooked at nursery. We are still experiencing some difficulty with deliveries and quantities food that we can order, this may result in alternative meals offered. Parents of children with allergies please be reassured that we will plan ahead to check ingredients of any alternatives. If we feel your child will be unable to have the meal due to their allergies then we will inform you the day before so you can make arrangements to bring a substitute.

How will you keep my child safe?

- We will ensure that children and adults avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms of COVID19.
- We will keep a designated room empty in Nursery so that it can be used by a child or adult who may show any COVID19 symptoms until they are collected.
- Ensure frequent hand washing cleaning and good hygiene practices are in place.
- Parents are requested to wash their child's hands each morning before they come into nursery. Hand washing facilities have been provided outside each entrance for parents to use. They will then go straight to their classrooms.
- We will clean the setting more regularly and throughout the day such as sterilizing toys and washing toys. Including outdoor areas.
- Staff will continue to wear gloves and aprons while serving food and changing children (these are colour coded for each task).

- All of our staff returning to work have completed a course called: 'Illness and Infection Control' so they have up to date knowledge in relation to infection signs and prevention.
- The Nursery will be open from **8am until 5 pm** (these times will be evaluated as we go). Parents wishing to bring their child along to the 8am drop off need to inform either Miss Tranter or Rose so we can maintain staff ratios for the earlier drop off times.
- We will still have designated drop off times: **8am 8.30am 9am** and **9.30** and collection times **3.30 4pm 4.30** and **5pm** so that we can maintain social distancing with parents at the gate. There will be traffic cones placed in the Nursery car park (2 metres distance) which we will ask you to stand at while collecting and dropping off children. If your child attends half a day they will be able to be dropped off and collected during the following session times: morning **8.30-1:30pm** or afternoon **12-5pm**.
- Children are not required to play at a two metre social distance because this is impossible for younger children, although the smaller classes will ensure that there is better spacing than usual.
- If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in Nursery they will be sent home and advised to follow the [staying at home guidance](#). If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to an empty room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision and a window opened for ventilation.

How do I notify Nursery that my child has COVID symptoms/positive COVID test if the Nursery is closed?

- Please ring or text the Nursery mobile number (**07736354574**), this will be taken home by a member of Nursery management each night/weekend. Please notify us immediately if your child has had a positive COVID test. Please only call this number on weekends regarding suspected / confirmed COVID cases.
- It is essential to use the Nursery mobile number during out of hours if your child has a positive COVID test so that we can notify parents in the child's social bubble via phone as soon as possible. The children in the social bubble would then have to isolate for 14 days.

Bed sheets and blankets in Nursery

- We kindly ask that children that sleep in Nursery remember to bring in a fitted cot sheet and blanket (thin blanket for when the weather is hot).
- This is essential so that children are not sleeping directly onto the bed mats. Although the bed mats can be cleaned, bed sheets are the most hygienic to use.
- The bed sheets and blankets will then stay in Nursery unless you request these to be sent home. We are keeping bed sheets and blankets so that we can wash these for you in Nursery; to reduce the transfer of items from home to Nursery (we use non-bio washing tablets).

If you have any other questions you might want answering, however please send any further questions to either of our Nursery emails rose@littleswans.org.uk or sam@littleswans.org.uk .

Kindest regards and keep safe and have a good month all !!!! ☺

Nursery management