**Whitchurch Under Fives - Coronavirus (COVID 19)**

While we plan interesting and fun activities and resources, it is especially important to keep everyone safe and well. Here are a few things that we will be doing to keep everyone as safe as we can.

To minimise Covid entering our premises we will -

Take children from our main gate, no siblings on site, no one on pre-school site other than children and staff with a staggered arrival & collection times and ask that you distance yourself. We ask you to arrive on time and if you arrive early to keep the path clear and wait a safe distance away. Children will be supported to put their belongings on their peg, wash their hands and join their friends. Any deliveries will be taken from main gate also.

To encourage social distancing and staying safe, we have-

Reduced the number of children on our register for the first two terms and so each session is smaller with maximum of 12 children (reviewed regularly). Activities and resources will be placed at a safe distance and will be monitored and washed along with surfaces each day. Children will regularly wash their hands and be encouraged to use tissues if they need and bin them straight away. Please pop in a change of clothes in their bag as we will be playing with lots of water.

We will use our outdoor areas most of our time. Our front and back gardens are filled with lots of fun things to do and our undercover classroom is great for when we have splashed in lots of puddles or it’s just a little too hot and want to chill or have a story.

I know this may be disappointing but after careful consideration, we have decided it is just too tricky to open our ball pond for now, so this remains closed! We have changed the use of this room to be our resource centre. Every surface, toy and resource are monitored, cleaned and disinfected to limit risk of cross infection, as you can imagine, this is a large-scale job.

In addition to toilet cleaning check list, extra regular cleaning of setting, rotating resources we have included a disinfectant spray for outside resources.

Setting has not been closed for long periods of time, no concern for Legionella due to stagnant water, taps have been running at least once a week (During 6-week summer break) and daily when open.

Poster for Covid-19 early outbreak management is displayed for staff. System of Control also displayed and read by all staff. Refresh/additional discussion about how we feel, what to do etc. at every staff meeting plus individuals at termly staff supervision – As of 23rd March 2021 all team members are taking twice weekly Rapid Antigen tests and reporting to NHS and SH (Lead)

New Parents on site for garden settling in session. This is risk assessed, parents are signed in, sanitise/wash hands and reminded to socially distance. Staff ask all parents prior to visit if they are high risk and if any have any covid symptoms. Parents are invited with their child for their first visit to setting to meet staff/key worker, this is to support heightened anxiety about leaving their child and have a look around their new setting. Windows are kept open for using toilet; some areas are closed and majority of time is spent outside playing.

Assess child minder and other setting status – ‘Settings, parents and carers should work through the ‘systems of controls’ collaboratively, to address any risks identified and allowing them to jointly deliver appropriate care for the child’ DfE.

Outdoor music area will not have blowing instruments for example recorders/whistles, play microphones will not be used until it is safer to do so and singing will be encouraged at a safe distance and loud voices avoided when indoors.

**Use of private and public outdoor spaces.** Settings should maximise use of private outdoor space.

Settings can take groups of children on trips to outdoor public places and do not need to be [limited to 6 people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do), provided:

* it is for the purpose of education or childcare
* they remain within the EYFS staff child ratios
* they conduct a risk assessment in advance
* the risk assessment demonstrates that they can remain socially distant (2 metres) from other people and groups, wherever possible
* good hygiene is maintained throughout
* thorough handwashing happens before and after the trip

### Staying in touch with parents or carers whose child is at home

Since 20 June 2020, normal group sizes have resumed so all children should be able to attend as normal, with the exception of those children who may still have to shield.

* to continue to support the learning of children who do not attend settings including how these children can maintain contact with their key person and peers through the early years setting
* parents and carers are supported to provide a positive learning environment at home with regular contact with key person

We will also direct parents to:

* the [Hungry Little Minds](https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/) campaign. It features tips and practical activities that parents can do at home with children to support their early learning. There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not have to be formal. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play and reading together all make a big difference to children’s development.
* We will also direct parents to the BBC’s [Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people) and the [National Literacy Trust’s Family Zone](https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/) for more ideas and content
* [help children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home during coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

Whitchurch Under Fives work with local authorities to monitor the welfare of:

* vulnerable children who are not attending provision
* other children they might wish to keep in touch with, for safeguarding purposes

If your child or anyone in your household is feeling unwell with Covid symptoms, we ask you report this to us immediately. We strongly recommend being tested and encourage the use of the Track & trace system to help keep all of us safe. Regular illness of upset tummy etc. still needs to be notified to us so we can keep our in-house track of regular childhood illnesses.

All staff members test twice each week and report to track and trace.

Our policy and procedure is regularly reviewed and updated with current Government advice, please refer to [www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do) for the latest information

Policies have been amended to include Covid 19 measures.

These include:

Arrivals and Departures

Child Protection

Contingency Plan

Complaints

Fees/Finance

First Aid

Fire Safety and Evacuation

Illness and Infectious disease

Risk Assessment Policy

Risk Assessments for Outings & Day trips

Safeguarding Overview

Sick Child/Covid Sick child

Staff Induction

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| Signed on Whitchurch Under Fives **Committee** member  Name:  Signature  Date Agreed: |
| Review Date:  Signature |
| Review Date:  Signature |
| Review Date:  Signature |

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| Signed on Whitchurch Under Fives **Staff** member  Name:  Signature  Date Agreed: |
| Review Date:  Signature |
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