**Covid 19 policy: Social distancing is a priority to protect everyone**

**We recognise that children under 5 are unable to observe social distancing rules therefore the nursery has to introduce other measures to keep children, staff and parents as safe as possible.**

**Please note that this policy is a working document and will be updated and reviewed when necessary.**

**Access to building:**

* Parents, siblings will not be able to access the building/ garden, handover will happen by the gates
* One parent per household only
* Parents are required to keep 2 meter outside the premises, the nursery will not be able to monitor that

**Drop off/pick up**

* Rainbow group in the covered garden – bell by the gate to be used,
* No parking on the drive, please
* Pre-school and Cabin groups at the main gate – walk children in or push them in the buggy staff members will escort them to their room - buggy storage for babies only, to reduce traffic

**Feedback to parents:**

* Please do not hold staff members at the gate, if you have questions, or wish to discuss confidential matters please contact us by phone to **Elizabeth (07725794009),Andrea (07725794008)** or **Camille/nursery mobile (07860939804)** during working hours or email at **seedlings@seedlingsdaynursery.com**
* As personal contact is difficult by social distancing, we will carry on posting observations and messages on Tapestry
* Please do not leave voicemail on the landline. Thank you

**Risk assessment:**

* risk assessment has been carried out according to government advice - [Planning guide for Early Years and Childcare Settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings)
* face-to-face meetings move to Zoom
* although most of our colleagues are vaccinated, this remains a personal choice
* ventilation – keep windows / doors open for most of the day

**High standards of hygiene and use of PPE**

* staff are used to frequent handwashing in general, but will observe 20 second thorough process
* we have provided all necessary facilities for handwashing, sanitising, gloves, aprons and masks
* masks won’t be worn in everyday interactions as standard
* if a child or colleague is showing symptoms of Covid-19 they will be isolated and those looking after them will be wearing masks for their own protection as the distance of 2 meters cannot be guaranteed

**Staff contact with children**

* will not change in fundamental way, children will be comforted and distracted if they are upset
* babies will be carried
* supported at mealtimes, sleep times
* will be given appropriate first aid

**Social distancing for staff**

* staff are asked to spread out when supervising children
* reduce mingling or working too close to each other
* reduce passing through rooms to essential activities
* Large gatherings – unfortunately not possible for the time being

**Sickness policy**

***If you or your child have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) you still need to get a PCR test. Lateral flow tests are for asymptomatic checks.***

* *a new continuous cough*
* *a high temperature (according to current guidance 37.8C or above)*
* *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), we are unable to detect this as children cannot communicate it yet*

*For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a PCR test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to*[*testing*](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/)*to arrange.”* Gov.uk website

* We are not checking children’s temperature routinely.  We’ll look out for usual signs of illness such as being withdrawn, feeling hot, flushed, looking pale, generally not themselves.
* We then take their temperature, record it and make the decision to isolate them from the rest of the group
* Contact parents who will have to collect children immediately
* Please make sure we have your up to date contact numbers and you are contactable at all times
* Parents and children should not come to the setting if they display coronavirus symptoms
* Out of a pair of siblings, only the child with symptoms needs to be collected or tested as due to their young age (under 18) they are not deemed close contact.

**Nursery operation:**

**Cleaning**

* Frequent washing of sheets and blankets, disinfecting mats after each use
* Cleaning of tables, chairs, door handles, toilets, taps, sanitiser dispensers
* Frequent cleaning of phones, tablets, pens etc handled by staff
* Sterilising of toys/equipment
* Using easy clean, wooden, plastic toys, clean them after use
* Storing soft toys and furnishings
* Carpet cleaning
* Daily cleaning of floors, stairs

**Groups/bubbles**

* We are maintaining bubbles/ We set up dividers in the garden to reduce contact between group
* Recent experience shows that it will be difficult to keep children in their groups, separate from others, as siblings meet at home anyway, but we will do our best to limit contact

**Children’s routine, activities:**

* Key person: we will be working as a team and look after children withing the group
* Staff members will role model good hand and respiratory hygiene
* Supervise children at handwashing
* Personal comforters used for sleep can be brought in, kept at the setting in children’s own bag/tray
* Other toys should not be brought in, unless in the interest of the child’s wellbeing
* We set up nose wiping stations for children to access at all times
* They are already used to hand sanitisers
* Toothbrushing is suspended for the time being
* Some of the messy play will have to be scaled back

**Children’s welfare during covid pandemic**

* They will be involved in looking after toys e.g. put them in separate container when they finished with it to sterilise
* We will not stop children from playing close to or hug each other

**Physical exercise**

* We are very fortunate to have large outdoor area therefore children will be spending as much time outside as possible
* No access to Forest School at the moment as Garthorne Road Nature reserve is closed
* Activities in Forest garden – digging, planting, mud play
* Football and fitness sessions with our coaches are cancelled for now – children will still take part in ball games, races, obstacle courses, dancing etc.