



Information for parents about
returning to Nursery

June 2020

We are looking forward to the gradual re-opening of the school to more and more children - the staff have missed the children very much and we know the children have missed their teachers and friends.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, we have changed some of the routines at school and nursery so that we can keep the children, parents and staff as safe as we possibly can.

The guidance from the Department for Education sets out the following steps we should take to reduce the risks where we can:

The key principles for controlling the spread of Covid-19 in schools and nurseries are:

- *minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges*
- *cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered*
- *ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- *cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach*
- *minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)*

At Cavalry school and nursery we will be following these principles until further notice. Here we set out the changes that you and your children are likely to notice as you come back to nursery. Please talk to your child about what to expect so that they feel confident about returning to nursery. You are welcome to take up some or all of the sessions your child previously attended, but we are unlikely to be able to add additional sessions at this point.

Routines at the start and end of the day:

We want to reduce the number of adults and children arriving/leaving at any one time so that it is easier for everybody to maintain social distancing.

- we will be operating a new one way system for school and nursery. For nursery, all parents and children will arrive via the small gate into the grassed area at the front of Nursery. From here you will be able to walk into the nursery play area, and drop your child off at the classroom door allocated to their group or 'bubble'. You will then leave by the gate adjacent to the school building and exit via the narrow path used by KS1.
- At the end of the day we ask you to follow the same route, collecting your child from their classroom door, and leaving via the KS1 gate.
- Staff will be outside to guide you if you are not sure where to go, and next week we will send you information about a video to watch so that you can work out where to go - it might help your child to watch this together at home before you return to nursery.
- As per the government guidance, only one adult should bring your child to school. If at all possible, please leave siblings at home in the care of another adult.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the classrooms, so you will need to say goodbye outside the classroom door.
- We want to keep the number of visitors to the school office to a minimum too, so please phone us or send an email rather than visiting in person if you can.

To reduce congestion at the school gates and on the play ground, we will be introducing a staggered start/end to the school date.

If your child's surname begins with the letters A to H, please arrive between 8.40 and 8.50 in the morning and collect your child between 2.45 and 2.55 in the afternoon.

If your child's surname begins with the letters I to P, please arrive between 8.50 and 9.00 in the morning and collect your child between 2.55 and 3.05 in the afternoon.

If your child's surname begins with the letters Q to Z, please arrive between 9.00 and 9.10 in the morning and collect your child between 3.05 and 3.15 in the afternoon.

If your child usually attends for a half day, use the times given above but you can collect at 11.55 as usual or drop off at 12.25 as usual. These times will be quieter so we will not use staggered times.

Organisation of teaching groups

The government has specified that nurseries should follow the usual ratio of a maximum of 8 children with 1 adult, and no more than two groups sharing a space. Our nursery will therefore be divided into three groups, each with two adults. Each group will be treated as a protected 'bubble', with the same children staying with the same two staff members at all times. We will avoid mixing between 'bubbles' as much as we can to minimise contact between children and adults. Each 'bubble' will have its own designated area outside to play, and will stick together through lunch time too.

Once we know how many children are coming back to school on the agreed start date for Nursery, we will contact you to tell you which 'bubble' your child is in and which classroom he/she will be based in. The classrooms we plan to use for Nursery will be the two nursery classrooms and also Classroom 1, which is usually used by Reception. All the rooms will have plenty of toys for them to play with and they will be with familiar adults although not necessarily their own key worker. Each of these classrooms has its own designated toilets as part of the classroom design.

When we group the children into 'bubbles' we will consider friendship groups as much as possible but we cannot guarantee that each child will be with every single one of their friends.

Limiting transmission between home and nursery:

In order to limit the risks of transmission between home and school, we would like your child to bring the minimum of items to nursery. Most of the children returning to nursery are coping well without pull ups, and we have plenty of spare clothes to deal with occasional 'little accidents'. Therefore you may decide not to send spare clothes with you child unless you feel that they may need them often.

Lunchtimes

At this time we are not able to offer hot school meals to Nursery, so would ask you to provide a packed lunch.

We will provide the children with a mid morning snack of fruit or a biscuit so you do not need to send this in.

We will not allow the children to use the water fountains so it is essential to send your child to school with a water bottle (and please write their name on it).

Nursery Fees

For those who stay for lunch, the usual £1 per day will be charged to cover costs of staff supervision. If you usually pay for some of your sessions, again the usual charges will apply and we will credit your invoice with any fees not used at the end of March when Nursery closed early. An invoice will be sent to you for the remainder of this term by the beginning to July.

Learning activities

The range of classroom activities will be reduced in order to limit the children sharing toys and equipment and we have removed items which are difficult to clean such as cuddly toys. However there will still be plenty of exciting things to

do and our creative staff will make sure the children are busy and happy in their play. When we sit on the carpet, the children will be well spaced out and when the children work at tables, they will also be told to space out. Many activities will take place outdoors in the fresh air, and we will keep doors and windows open as much as possible to ensure the classrooms are well ventilated.

Hygiene

The classrooms have been deep cleaned before the children come back to school, and will be cleaned every day after the children leave. In addition, some 'on the spot' cleaning will take place during the school day, focusing on items which are touched regularly such as light switches, door handles and table tops. Frequently used equipment will be washed during the day as well.

The children will be supervised to wash their hands thoroughly with soap for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals throughout the day.

The government guidance says that nursery and primary aged children should not wear face masks/coverings in school. If you want your child to cover their face during the journey to school, this is permitted but you will need to remove the face mask/covering at the classroom door and take it home with you - it is recommended that you place the mask/covering in a small plastic bag which you can seal. If you have a strong preference for your child to wear a face mask/covering during the school day, it would be best to keep your child at home until you feel confident that they are safe in class without a face covering.

First Aid/ Intimate Care

Whilst staff will try to remain socially distanced from the children during classroom activities, we recognise that with young children this may not always be practical, especially if first aid treatment is required or a child needs help with intimate care.

First aid - there may be some aspects that even young children can do for themselves, for example holding an ice pack against a minor bump. If staff need to 'get up close' please rest assured that we will do so, and staff have

basic PPE available to help with this - disposable gloves, aprons and face masks.

Intimate care - we know that little accidents can still happen with our youngest children. We will encourage children to be independent where possible, for example changing from wet pants to dry pants with an adult nearby. However if they need help, we will give it and PPE may be worn by the staff member for everyone's peace of mind.

What will happen if a child or adult shows symptoms of Covid 19:

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell) you must keep your child at home and your household should self isolate for 14 days. Testing to establish if a child is infected with coronavirus is now available and we would recommend that you arrange a test for your child to establish the nature of their illness.

If a child or staff member shows symptoms of the coronavirus during the school day, they will be isolated immediately away from their bubble. We will contact the child's parents and expect the child to be collected as a matter of urgency. For this reason we request three telephone numbers that we can use to contact you, and you must inform us if any of these numbers change. **The whole group/bubble of children and staff will then be asked to self isolate at home for 14 days or until the poorly child/staff member has been tested for coronavirus and a negative result has been received** - in these circumstances the whole bubble will be able to return to school. In cases of suspected or confirmed infection, rigorous cleaning procedures will be followed.

What to talk about with your child:

Before your child's first day back at nursery, please take a few minutes at a quiet time to chat with them about what school will be like. These are the key messages we want you to share:

- Even though you are very happy to see your friends and your teachers,

we are not able to hug one another at the moment. A wave and smile is a lovely way to say hello

- Please use a tissue to catch coughs, sneezes or runny noses, and put your dirty tissue in the special white bin in your classroom
- You might be in a different classroom but there will still be lots of fun things to do
- You might play outside in a different area but there will still be lots of fun things to do
- You might have a different teacher but it will be somebody you know
- In your classroom there will be some of your friends but maybe not everybody from your old class. You will have to stick with the children in your new group and you won't be able to play with the children from other groups just yet
- the teachers will remind you not to crowd together but to spread out and use all the space in the classroom.

If you have any further questions, please call the school office or email us at admin@cavalryprimary.org.