

19th July 2021

Arrangements for September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may know the government have confirmed some adjustments to the guidance for nurseries and schools (what is referred to as Step 4 of the roadmap). From September, we will continue to be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am – 3pm and Friday 9am -12, and anticipate that your child's attendance will be based on the sessions you have booked with us. Please let us know if your circumstances change and attending the setting will be difficult, or you need to change sessions as soon as possible.

This letter is to outline some of the measures we're expecting to be in place when children return in September. We plan to finalise some of the day to day details before the start of term, so will be writing to you again nearer to September, including the arrangements regarding any positive tests or Covid symptoms.

We will also have 'contingency plans' in place should there be local or regional outbreaks, or concerns over new variants. This means essentially that we will be planning what will happen if restrictions tighten, or settings have to close. We will also have a full risk assessment in place.

What we're expecting to continue

- Cleaning regimes
- Good ventilation
- Good hand hygiene
- Good respiratory hygiene eg coughing and sneezing into tissues if possible, washing hands etc
- Nappy changing arrangements will remain the same
- Following government advice regarding testing, self-isolating and what to do if a child or member of staff tests positive – and to make these clear to you as parents/carers
- Children do not attend if they have symptoms, or have had a positive test, however we will confirm this particular aspect nearer the start of term
- Keeping in touch if any children are not attending
- Focus on children's wellbeing
- Children will continue to be in one group
- Children should continue to bring all their items for the day in one large bag for life to go on or under their pegs. The Kit List will remain the same
- Newsletters, invoices and other updates will continue to be sent via email
- Snack will continue as this term for now eg please continue to send a snack for your child
- If you want to speak to a member of staff please continue to phone in or email

What we're expecting to change

- Face masks not routinely worn unless staff or parents/carers choose to
- Contact tracing will be via NHS Test & Trace
- Visits from prospective parents will be allowed during session time
- Parents/carers will be allowed in the building at drop off time
- Malleable play will be available more freely
- Equipment rotations will be adjusted slightly
- We will no longer temperature check on arrival but we may use the thermometer if we are concerned a child has, or is developing, a temperature
- The children's trays will be used for them to place artwork or other items – these items can then be taken home at the end of the day
- Drop off and pick up times/arrangements – please come in the usual gate between 9am and 9.15am and put bags on your child's peg in the Sunflower Room (but please don't unpack it). A member of staff will take them at the white internal white doors to the Rainbow Room. We will be closing the gate at 9.15am so any children arriving late will be met at the gate. A member of staff will be available between 9am and 9.15am, however you can also continue to phone in to speak to a member of staff
- Also in the drop off room, you will have the opportunity to see some recent work, objects linked to our learning and fill in any Wow Moments (we'll explain about these later!)
- Pick up will continue as now expect for the times which will be 2.55pm to 3.05pm
- You will be able to stay for a short time to settle your child if they are upset
- Parent Consultations will continue preferably face to face

Other information you may find useful

Test and Trace Support Payments

Some parents and carers may be eligible for a one-off Test and Trace Support Payment of £500 if told to self-isolate. This is payable in one lump sum from the local authority. Further information is available on claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

We hope you all have a safe and restful summer break, and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th September 2021.

Kind regards

First Steps Staff
First Steps Management Team