

Information on wider gradual opening to more children at Strong Close Nursery School

Which children can attend from 8th June?

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 23rd March and have been operating with smaller group sizes and additional hygiene and infection control measures. We will remain open for them until wider opening is confirmed.

From the week beginning 1 June, early years and childcare providers will welcome back all children, if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time. For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend their early years setting. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, will not to attend the school. That includes children, parent/carers and staff who work here. The coronavirus symptoms are:-
 - A high temperature
 - A new continuous cough
 - A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

Please see notes on testing below.

- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual singing our hand washing song. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using 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 our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and lidded bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children (please see tape markings and stickers on the ground to support this) and to limit drop off and collection to **one parent or carer per household**.
- Asking parents or carers to adhere to their specified staggered drop off and pick up times to keep everyone safe.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.
- Asking children not to take toys, books other items from school to home.
- Children will be dropped off and picked up in the entrance one at a time and taken to, or brought from their class by their staff.
- Parents or carers will exit the setting initially via upstairs with staff support.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the setting.

1. Anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or has displayed symptoms in the previous 7 days, or lives with someone who has displayed symptoms in the previous 14 days, must not come to school unless they have tested positive for corona virus.
2. Our school's agreed protocol for responding to a suspected coronavirus case is below and parents/carers will need to immediately collect their child if they develop symptoms while at school:-
 - If a child or staff member displays COVID symptoms they will be sent home from the school
 - Whilst waiting to be taken home the child will be kept in an isolation room with a member of staff wearing PPE resources.
 - Any affected areas will be cleared to enable deep cleaning.
 - If the child tests positive for coronavirus they should isolate for 7 days and immediate household members for 14 days and advice
 - If a pupil or member of staff has a confirmed case of coronavirus the rest of their immediate class or group will be sent home to isolate for 14 days.
 - The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
3. Prior to coming to school you could share some of the resources about coronavirus on the attached sheet and start to prepare your child about the changes when they return to school.
4. Sun lotion- whilst we would usually try to encourage 20 minutes of exposure to sunlight at school before applying sun lotion, (in order to boost vitamin D), in the current situation we ask that all parents apply sun lotion to their child before coming to nursery. Staff will then reapply sun lotion as and when necessary on sunny days and by making sure gloves are changed and hands washed after each application.
5. Children, young people and parent/carers are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times.
6. Please ensure children do not wear the same clothes to school on subsequent days and that their clothes from each day are changed and washed.

Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Further guidance is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>