

Information on admissions from September 2020 at Strong Close Nursery School

As you may be aware, we continued to be open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 23rd March and then opened from 8th June 2020 to all existing children. From September we will be opening to all existing children and also for new admissions. For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness.

Protective measures we have taken in the 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 continually follow all the latest government guidance, to develop and implement new ways of operating to keep everyone as safe as possible. This allows us to open, focusing on measures that help to limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we have taken in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, will not 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 groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual and 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 markings on the ground and barriers with signs 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 time details in their letter to keep everyone safe, this is very important.**
- 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 or other items from school to home.
- Children will be dropped off and picked up **at the entrance specified in your letter** one at a time and taken to, or brought from their class by their staff.

Further guidance on school opening is available at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

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.
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 bubble 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 attending 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 school, 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, families 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>