October 2020 – Update re Covid 19 procedures

Dear Parents,

As we are all well aware, the Covid 19 situation continues with our county being placed in tier 3 meaning that many of us won’t be able to do some of the things that we’d planned in this half term break. But there is still lots of fun and enjoyment to be had, just a bit differently to what we may prefer. It doesn’t look like it’s going to go away any time soon either. The procedures and risk assessments that we put in place at the beginning of term have held well however and fortunately we have had no cases in the kindergarten. Our cleaning and hygiene procedures have worked well and parents have respected social distancing at drop off and pick up times. Importantly the children are happy, settled and are enjoying their time playing and learning with us.

I’d like to take this opportunity to confirm a few points however -

1. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a temperature, persistent cough and loss of smell or taste. If your child, yourself or a member of your household has any of these symptoms, please do not bring your child to Kindergarten, isolate as the government guidance asks and get a test.
2. Should a child (or adult) present with symptoms whilst at Great and Small Kindergarten, our procedure is –
* they will be immediately isolated from the group at a minimum distance of 5 metres and away from any resources.
* Any resources that the child has touched should be removed from use and thoroughly disinfected.
* A practitioner will contact parents to collect the child **immediately** and will wait with the child until they arrive.
* The child must then have a test and follow the isolation guidance.
* The practitioner must wear a face mask, disposable gloves and a disposable apron. Once the child has left the setting, the mask, gloves and apron will be double bagged before being disposed of in the bin provided. The top of the bin will be disinfected and the practitioner will thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water, as per the handwashing instruction poster.
1. If a practitioner presents with any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be instructed to go home immediately. If two or more practitioners presented with symptoms, parents would be contacted to collect their children immediately, the practitioners would be sent home to follow isolation guidance and the setting would close until further notice.
2. If your child does have a test and tests negatively, we may allow your child to come back to us sooner than the isolation period subject to proof of a negative test and no-one else in the household showing symptoms.
3. More information can be found on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
4. All but one of our team has children who attend school. Both of my children’s classes have had to isolate in recent weeks due to a child in their class testing positive. These situations are likely to continue. Should we find a situation whereby our team members have to isolate themselves or their children are required to isolate, we may need to reduce our days/times available or even close if we cannot meet the required staffing levels to provide childcare. We hope that this will not happen, but reserve the right to suspend our childcare until isolation periods are over if required.
5. Should our team numbers be reduced due to illness/isolation, if possible, we will continue to provide childcare for smaller numbers of children considering safe staffing levels. Childcare will first be offered to parents who are in essential keyworker jobs and any children that are considered ‘vulnerable’. Parents were recently given a short form to complete to state whether your job is considered an essential keyworker position and if alternative childcare is available eg grandparents etc. Please return these as soon as possible. Failure to return them will result in our assumption that childcare would not be required.
6. Should the government decide to impose a further lockdown or ‘circuit breaker’, it may well be that schools/childcare settings are closed. It may be that we remain open as usual. Or it may be that schools close but nurseries remain open. If the latter was to happen, our staffing levels would again be impacted and again, we would need to consider our staffing levels and if we need to reduce the childcare available. Again, we reserve the right to amend our childcare provision should we need to for these reasons.
7. Should we have to close temporarily, parents whom pay for their child’s care will not be charged. Any sessions paid for in advance but unable to attend for these reasons, would be refunded.
8. Any days/sessions missed due to temporary closure cannot be ‘rolled over’ to a later date.

Please be rest assured that we sincerely hope that we are not impacted, however it is only sensible that we think ahead, just in case. We have no idea what restrictions may be imposed or if we will have another lockdown, but again, we should consider the options if it does happen.

I thank you all in advance for your cooperation so far and in the future. It remains a tricky time but we are all in this together and are here to support each other.

Take care, enjoy the half term week and we shall see you and your children from the week beginning Monday 2nd November. If we have any further news to share regarding this matter, you will be emailed, we will send a note via Tapestry and we will post on our facebook page.

As ever, if you have any questions, please feel free to speak to a member of our team, call or email greatandsmall1@outlook.com

Kind regards,

Vicky and all the Great and Small team x