



Shalfleet Little Explorers
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Advice on Coronavirus - Testing and Isolation

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you of the Coronavirus guidelines we are following at the moment in Shalfleet Little Explorers Preschool.

To help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus we respectfully request that you follow the information below. We are committed to keeping your children, yourselves and our team safe and we need your support to do this.

Symptoms (information gained from the NHS website)

Anyone displaying the following symptoms should stay at home and not enter the school site:

- A high temperature above 38c or feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back.
- A new and continuous cough this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours - if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual.
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We request that people stay alert to these symptoms and avoid contact with people displaying these symptoms, those who have received a positive test and those who have been advised to self-isolate by the Test and Trace app.

Self-isolation

Anyone who is displaying the above symptoms should arrange to have a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. If someone is displaying these symptoms or living in a household with someone with these symptoms they need to self-isolate for 14days or until a negative test is received.

Those who have been advised to self-isolate via the Test and Trace app should also self-isolate for 14 days unless advised otherwise. People who are in a period of self-isolation should not enter the preschool site until their self-isolation period has ended.

It is advised that those who have come in to contact with someone who has symptoms (apart from those in the same household) do not need to self-isolate unless they begin to show symptoms however they must strictly follow social distancing. We are sure you will agree that this is not a possibility in a preschool setting so as a setting we are insisting those who this applies to stay at home for 14 days after the contact.

If you and your family are self-isolating for any of the reasons above or your child begins to show symptoms, please phone or email to let us know as soon as possible.

Testing

As stated above, if you or your child are displaying signs of Coronavirus you need to request a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. A Covid-19 test is more reliable when the person has been tested within the first 5 days of symptoms. You must notify the school of the result of a Coronavirus test for your household as soon as possible.

Returning to the setting

If your child has been off due to symptoms of Coronavirus they can return to the setting after your household's isolation period has finished. For your child they are able to return to the setting as long as they are over their isolation period, if they have received a negative result, they have no more symptoms and they are well within themselves.

Please do not send your child in to the setting if they are unwell.

What will happen if a child develops Coronavirus symptoms at the setting?

In line with the Government guidance - if your child develops Coronavirus symptoms including (but not limited to) a high temperature or a consistent cough during their time at Little Explorers, we will contact you and ask you to collect your child as soon as possible. In this instance for the protection of our staff team and other children your child will be taken out of the room and they will sit in a quiet part of the setting with a member of staff who will don suitable PPE including a face mask. Everything your child has come in to contact with will then be thoroughly disinfected.

Please ensure that Little Explorers has the most up to date contact details for family members and alternative contacts. We ask that you keep your telephones on and close at hand and that should you receive a telephone call, you pick your child up immediately and follow government guidance.

Confirmed case of Coronavirus for someone who has been at the setting

Should the Preschool receive confirmation of a confirmed case, then the Preschool will take guidance from Public Health England and the Department of Education.

We will make sure that we keep you regularly updated about any changes to infection control procedures or operational running of the preschool as necessary.

Strategies in place at the setting

There continues to be clear ground markings and information for you to use outside Little Explorers entrance. If there is another parent at our gate, please wait until they have returned back along the pathway and it is clear for you to enter this area safely. Our aim is to reduce contact of children and parents at this time. We have also installed a small cleaning station with hand sanitising gel available for you to use.

Upon arrival, a member of our team will meet you at the gate, at this time unfortunately we will still not be allowing parents in to the setting as we are still trying to reduce the amount of people in close contact within the setting. Our staff member will take your child and their belongings into the setting and settle your child. This will be repeated at the end of the day with a member of staff bringing your child and their belongings out to you at the gate. Please bring the bare minimum for your child's day at pre-school including (but not limited to) a lunch box, water bottle and weather appropriate clothing such as a raincoat or a sun hat.

We request that you leave all toys, games and soft toys at home. One cuddly soft toy will be allowed if it is absolutely essential to your child's emotional wellbeing, and will be sprayed with an antibacterial solution on arrival.

In both rooms we will be operating in a somewhat normal capacity with most toys, resources and furniture being provided for the children to access. We will still be limiting the amount of soft furnishings in both of the rooms. We will be continuing to implement regular cleaning throughout the setting including high touch points, toilets, sinks, toys, resources and furniture every day.

Parent partnerships

Upon arrival and departure, you can still talk to our team regarding your child as normal as parent partnerships continue to be very important to us as a setting. However, we are also contactable through email and phone calls throughout the day.

Colds and other illnesses

As usual with colds and other illnesses please do not send your child in to the setting if they are not well enough to come in. If your child's condition worsens whilst with us, and it is not suitable for them to be at the setting, we will contact you and ask you to collect them.

Please be assured that everything we do and everything we put in place during this time has the children's wellbeing and safety at forefront of our minds.

Government Information

For more guidance please see the government guidance on the links below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is new to the setting, we will arrange with you individually how to bring and settle your child into Little Explorers.

If you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Thank you for your support

Little Explorers Team