



Shalfleet 'Little Explorers'
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05th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Advice on coronavirus, testing, isolation and preventative measures put in place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this incredibly difficult time. In following the government guidance Little Explorers has been open throughout lockdown 2021 all be it on a slightly reduced timetable. With the announcement that schools, wrap around care and clubs are to reopen where possible from March 8th we will be following this and reopening our full services including our 8am-5pm opening and providing afterschool and breakfast clubs.

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 37.8c 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 people stay alert to these symptoms and avoids 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.

Please also see below the website for the world health organisation who provide some details of other symptoms to be aware of during this time. Please stay alert for all of these symptoms as some are more commonly seen in children.

https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_3

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 school 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 as it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to arise in yourself.

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 your 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 house hold as soon as possible. If you do not feel confident in the result please do get retested.

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. If you are still in isolation yourself please do not bring your child to the setting as you are required to finish your isolation before leaving the house.

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. Please do not pass other parents to press the buzzer, our team will be with you as soon as possible and will let the other room know if we see you are waiting behind another parent. 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. Due to logistics we will no longer be taking children's temperatures upon their arrival at the setting, however if we feel at any point the child is not themselves we will take their temperature. Our staff member will then take your child and their belongings in to 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. We ask that parents are prompt in dropping off and collecting the children and that you please stick to your pre-booked times both at the beginning and end of the day as our staff ratios are

extremely tight. Our staff will continue to have the option to wear masks and or visors at the setting so please be aware that they may be wearing these when collecting your child and throughout the preschool day. 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 however we have now brought back a small amount of dressing up resources which will be washed each day. We will be continuing to implement regular cleaning throughout the setting including high touch points, toilets, sinks, toys, resources and furniture every day.

After school and breakfast clubs

During afterschool and breakfast clubs our staff will be wearing masks and or visors so please be aware of this if your child attends this provision. During these clubs we will be doing the same as stated above by spraying the children's belongings with an anti-bacterial spray. We will be in the preschool room but we will be doing our best to keep all of the children in their year groups.

In some cases, we have previously made up children's dinners with the food that has been provided from home however for the foreseeable future we will be unable to provide this service. If you would like your child to have dinner with us, you will need to provide the dinner premade and ensure your child can access it independently.

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.

We ask that parents are considerate going forward if there is a change of staffing or if members of staff have to self-isolate or shield. We are doing all we can to provide as much continuity for the children as possible, yet we are aware that a situation can change very quickly and we will need to be flexible.

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

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 we feel your child's condition worsens 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.

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

We are deeply saddened to be in this situation, which is a time of great concern for everyone, and ask that parents are understanding of the position we are in. The situation is changing rapidly and we will update parents as soon as there is any change. Should preschools be instructed to close to everyone with the exception of vulnerable or key worker children we will be in contact to arrange childcare, if essentially required, and explain any limitations we have had to put in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the incredible staff team I have in the preschool for their commitment to the children, they have been brilliant and have come to work despite feeling intense pressure.

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

On behalf of the Little Explorers team thank you for your support

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fallows". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a trailing flourish.

Jaimee Fallows

Preschool Supervisor

Little Explorers