



Happy Easter

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Dear PARENTS/CARERS

Welcome back to all our existing children and to the new children and families that have joined us over the past few weeks. They have all been brilliant and seem happy and settled. Thank you to parents that have been prepared to just drop and run at the gate leaving them in our care. If parents have any worries or queries, please do not hesitate to call us or email.

We are now coming to the end of the Spring Term at playgroup which finishes on Thursday 1st April` 21 for our Easter Break and we will be returning to playgroup on Monday 19th April` 21.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

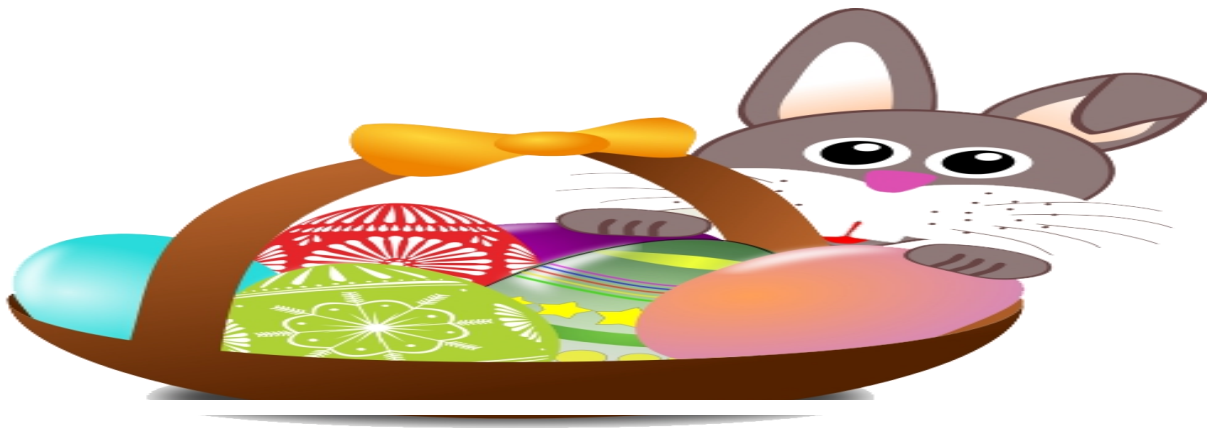
Children have been learning about the people that help us and their occupations such as Police Officers, Nurses, Dentists which has been linked in with healthy eating and how we can look after our teeth. We take the opportunity to use our playgroup park whenever the weather allows. The children have been planting, making bird feeders learning about Spring. We have celebrated Chinese New Year, Pancake Day, Valentine`s day, St Patricks day and made lots of lovely things to take home for Mother`s Day! We hope you enjoyed them.

Easter Week Celebrations

Next week we will be celebrating Easter and our last week of term with lots of craft activities, games, baking, picnics, and an egg hunt across the week each day. We did not manage to have our Christmas party`s as planned and therefore to include all children we will make sure everyone joins our celebrations and we will be sending home a belated gift from Santa (probably wrapped in Christmas paper) and an Easter treat!

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Hopefully from next term, as normality returns, we will be able to embrace lots of new challenges and learning opportunities with more freedom to explore our local community safely as we have done in the past.



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EASTER EGG DECORATION COMPETITION -

Use an egg-shaped sheet of card or paper for your child to decorate at home and return to playgroup to display before Easter. All entries are £1:00 each and all children will receive a small treat for their entry. The 3 eggs judged the best will win an Easter Prize. Happy decorating - remember a little guidance is often needed but children`s own work is always the best!!

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QUEUING OUTSIDE GATES DROP OFF AND PICK UP

PARENT/CARER PLEASE SOCIALLY DISTANCE - remember when approaching the setting. Queuing parents must socially distance from other parents, wear a mask and do not gather to chat when dropping off and picking up your child. We have received a few complaints from upset parents that others are not queuing fairly, while others are waiting their turn, a few parents push children forward from the other side or in front.

Unfortunately, socially distance queuing with face masks is very much still in place, we ask that everyone respect each other, we cannot supervise the queue, nor do we wish to have conflict with parents. I feel this can be sorted out between the adults involved.

We are doing our best to speed the process up but only have 4 sinks for childing washing hands at one go, practitioners help take children's coats off then supervising washing and drying before going to play. It will get quicker with warm weather and short sleeves!

Social distance, please



BAGS/LUNCH BOXES/CLOTHING

Please replenished bags with 2 full sets of clothes with the children that are still potty training including lots of underwear, socks, and spare shoes. Can just be slippers/plimsols.

Name bags clearly please, we have lots of similar bags unnamed still, please **name clothing** (just on cleaning label with biro) jackets, jumpers, sweatshirts, coats. **Lunch boxes name inside clearly please.**

We encourage healthy Lunch Boxes such as a small sandwich (not chocolate spread), wrap, small savoury, pasta, crackers, cheese, or a small lunch that can be heated. **One** small packet of crisps or small treat such as a biscuit is fine (no sweets), fruit, yoghurt. Please no drinks, we supply water, milk, and sugar free squashes at snack times.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER`21

We hope everyone has made their application for the school of their choice with children leaving us this year to go to `Big School` in September`21. If you have missed the deadline, please contact Medway Council immediately for how to proceed with school admission. www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

Can parents let us know when they receive confirmation of the school their child has been given, we like to complete a transition record for all our children to their receiving school.

LITTLE URCHINS PHOTO SESSION - 10th June '21

We have booked the photographers to take the 'Graduation' photographs, more information to follow next term.

FEES

30 hours funding parents please make sure you renew/apply promptly within your time frame to be eligible for your funding each term. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Fees must be paid on invoice. We usually invoice 2 weeks into term, to give parents plenty of time for payment and must be paid by the end of term. Child places are not guaranteed the following term if fees are in arrears.

Please let us know of any changes or extra sessions required before the end of this term. We have limited availability but will do our best to accommodate parents' preferences.



COVID19 SAFE PROVISION

We will continue to be vigilant to making our provision a healthy and safe place for your children, only healthy staff will work, we socially distance where possible from each other. Practitioners now complete a LFT test twice a week and practitioners are expected to follow government guidelines and our procedures to keep themselves COVID safe while working for us.

We provide hand gels, masks, aprons, and gloves as well as the usual hygiene facilities for practitioners.

We have a cleaning routine throughout the day across the sessions.

Children are encouraged to wash hands regularly, cover mouths and nose when coughing/sneezing and to use tissues.

I ask you to remember that as an Early Years setting children do not and cannot socially distance from us or their friends during play, please keep this in mind and only send in your children if they are well.

A decorative border of black and white patterned Easter eggs surrounds the text. The eggs are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some eggs slightly overlapping others, creating a festive frame for the safety guidelines.

COVID19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

AT THE GATE YOU MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING - parents/carers will be challenged, and we may not accept a child from a parent/carer unless a face covering is worn.

PARENT/CARER MUST SOCIALLY DISTANCE - remember when approaching the setting and queuing parents **must socially distance** from other parents, wear a mask and do not gather to chat when dropping off and picking up your child.

If you **cannot** do this then we may ask you not to bring your child until you are able to follow our guidelines.

STAFF MAY WEAR A FACE COVERING - when at the gate. Please do not engage in lengthy conversation with staff at gate to minimise contact, telephone or email the information you wish to share. Our practitioners as your child's keyperson are happy to call you back and discuss your child's progress.

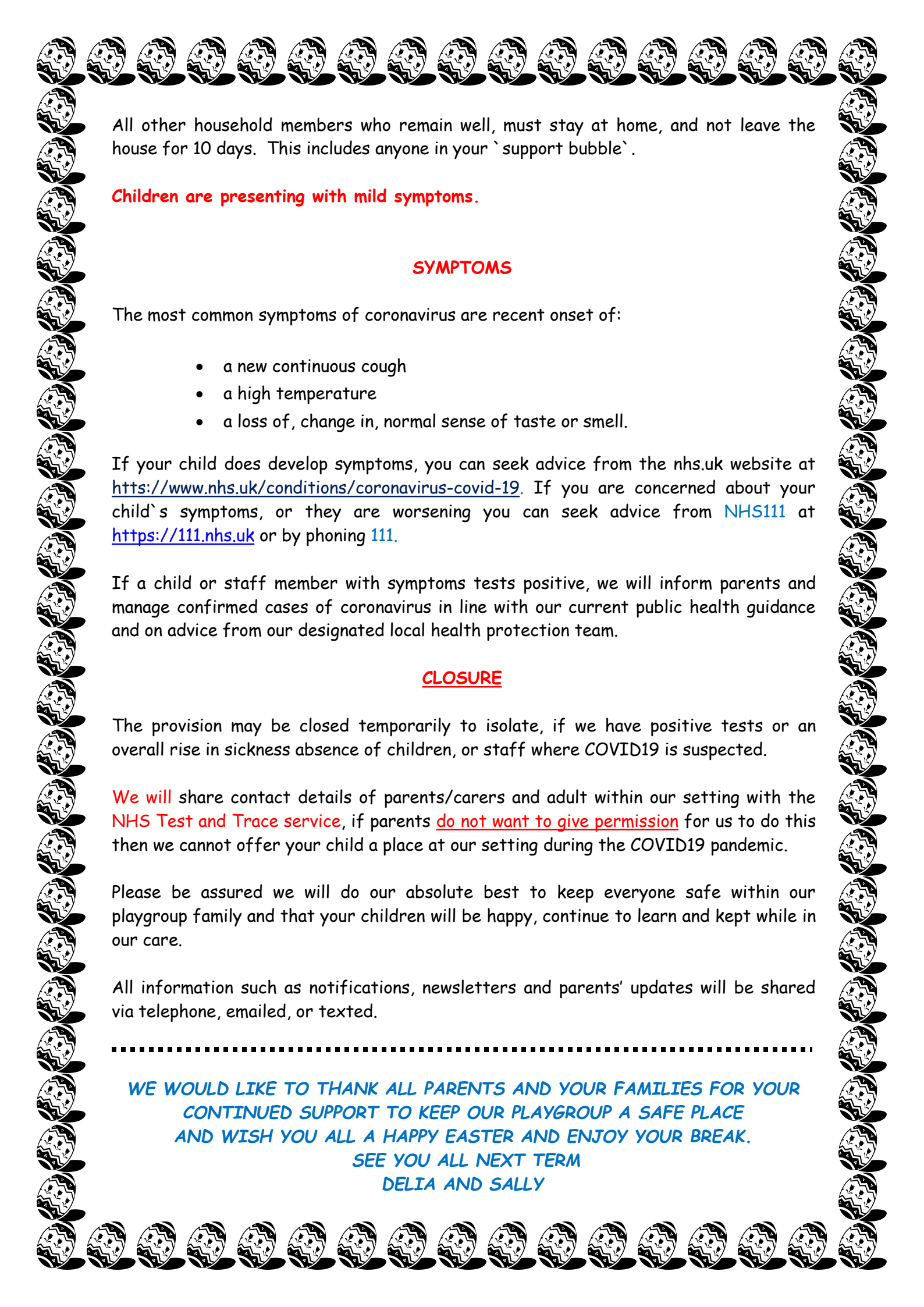
Staff may now choose to wear face-coverings when in close physical contact with children and other adults within the setting.

DO NOT send your child to playgroup if they have even minor ailments such as colds, coughs, runny noses until they have dried up and are well enough to play. Must be clear of sickness or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours from last symptom and are well enough to play and toilet without support. Please keep your child off and get treatment if they have impetigo, conjunctivitis until clear of infection. Please do not send your child to playgroup if they have had a temperature within 24 hours or has required temperature control medication such as paracetamol (Calpol).

IF IN ANY DOUBT that your child is at all poorly or not themselves please stay home or indeed any member of your household. If you have other children/siblings, adults that live with you and they have been asked to isolate (even if they do not have symptoms) that you **do not send** your child into our playgroup for the isolation period to reduce the risk of transmission into our provision.

ENSURE yourselves are healthy and well enough to pick up and drop off children, arriving and leaving promptly once your child is welcomed by staff.

INFORM US if your child has attended playgroup and if anyone in your household becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus however mild, they must not come to playgroup please stay at home for at least 10 days from the date the symptoms appear. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.



All other household members who remain well, must stay at home, and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your `support bubble`.

Children are presenting with mild symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms of coronavirus are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>. If you are concerned about your child`s symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from **NHS111** at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning **111**.

If a child or staff member with symptoms tests positive, we will inform parents and manage confirmed cases of coronavirus in line with our current public health guidance and on advice from our designated local health protection team.

CLOSURE

The provision may be closed temporarily to isolate, if we have positive tests or an overall rise in sickness absence of children, or staff where COVID19 is suspected.

We will share contact details of parents/carers and adult within our setting with the **NHS Test and Trace service**, if parents **do not want to give permission** for us to do this then we cannot offer your child a place at our setting during the COVID19 pandemic.

Please be assured we will do our absolute best to keep everyone safe within our playgroup family and that your children will be happy, continue to learn and kept while in our care.

All information such as notifications, newsletters and parents' updates will be shared via telephone, emailed, or texted.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL PARENTS AND YOUR FAMILIES FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO KEEP OUR PLAYGROUP A SAFE PLACE AND WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER AND ENJOY YOUR BREAK. SEE YOU ALL NEXT TERM DELIA AND SALLY