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MAY/JUNE 2021

Dear PARENTS/CARERS

We just wanted to thank all the parents and carers that have continued to support us as your childcare provider over the last year and particularly over the past term as we are easing out of the various phases of the government's roadmap to `normality`.

It has not always been easy with the restricted timetable and guidelines we introduced but these have been in the best interests of keeping your children, families, and staff safe and well, enabling us to keep our provision open for childcare.

We ask that parents continue to socially distance from each other when queuing with their children outside and if not able to do so wear to wear a face covering.

End of session pick-ups will remain at 11:30am and 3:00pm. We will resume normal sessional care hours from September` 21.

If parents have any worries or queries to discuss or wish to make changes to collections, please contact us by telephone, text, or email and not on the gate, it is a busy time and not possible for the practitioner to take messages.

We are now going into our Spring break. Our last day is Friday 28th May` 21 playgroup and we will be returning on Monday 7th June` 21.

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

This term we have focused on using our playgroup park and outside space to extend the children`s physical play opportunities to challenge and gain confidence in their abilities. We are encouraging the children to talk about themselves, their homes, and families through various activities.

Apologies for some very muddy returned children at the end of session, the weather has not been on our side!



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER`21



We now have a list of schools for `Leavers` but if you have missed the deadline, please contact Medway Council immediately for how to proceed with school admission www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions and let us know when you have been allocated a place.

During the next few weeks and next term, the children will be continuing to develop their physical, social and independence as they get ready for `big` school.

Please support your children by encouraging them to listen and follow simple instructions, they will enjoy completing simple tasks such as dressing and putting on shoes, encourage them to be totally independent with toileting and especially washing hands and hygiene. Talk to the children about school in an excited and positive way, about what to expect, meeting their teachers and making lots of new friends.



PLAYGROUP CLOSED - FRIDAY 2ND JULY`21 - PARENT MORNING

Parents, please note we will be closed on this date. Key persons will be preparing progress reports and transitions to schools that will then be sent out to parents by email the following week. If you would like to speak to your child`s key person, please let us know and we can book a telephone call.

LITTLE URCHINS PHOTO SESSION - Thursday 10th June `21

We have booked the photographers to take the `Graduation` photographs for children leaving for school. All the children that attend during that day will have their photo taken. `Leavers` that do not attend on the Thursday can come in with their parents at 12:30 noon for a photo.

There will be an opportunity for remaining children to have their photo`s later in the year, fingers crossed in the new term.

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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 and wear a mask if not able to do so or when entering our provision. Kindly do not gather at the gate when dropping off and picking up your children.

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 we also have our lent clothes returned promptly please.

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. **All clothing not claimed with no name will be gathered and recycled.**

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. **Lunch boxes name clearly please.**

We will remove sweets, more than one treat, drinks for example and send back home where possible but it would be better if they just were not added, less conflict for us!



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FEES

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.

Extra child sessions and lunch clubs will be withdrawn the following term if fees are in arrears. Funded children will only be able to access their funded sessions if they remain in arrears.

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

Session Fees - will be increasing from the September`21 to £13:00 per session. Lunch Club fees will remain at £2:50 per session.



REMINDER TO PARENTS - PLEASE CHECK CHILDREN`S HAIR REGULARLY FOR HEADLICE AND TREAT. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL CASES LAST TERM. THANK YOU.

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 continue to 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.

COVID19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

AT THE GATE YOU PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING - 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 if not able to do so and please 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
ENJOY YOUR BREAK!***

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