

Newcastle Nursery Schools' Federation



Ashfield Nursery School and
Al2gether @ Ashfield



Monkchester Road Nursery School



Newburn Manor Nursery School

16th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are hoping that we may be able to open Ashfield Nursery to some children as soon as possible. We have been working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back children.

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We have been working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting. We must stress to you that due to the age of our children **we are unable to ensure children will socially distance from each other.**

Children who cannot attend include:

- Children who live with anyone who is 'clinically extremely vulnerable' as we cannot fully guarantee social distancing
- Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable
- Children who are medically vulnerable – follow medical advice and speak to your doctor
- Children who are showing symptoms of the virus or live with someone showing symptoms
- Children who are unwell (due to children showing many different symptoms of virus)

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting. We are unable to guarantee that children will be in their usual class/group.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly.



- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting.
- If it is sunny, we will ask children to wear a hat, children can wear their own hat from home which must be named or a Nursery hat which we will name for them and use each day.
- Depending on numbers we will have to have a rota for children meaning they may only be able to return for a week. If numbers are lower, we may be able to offer more days. Priority will be given to key worker/vulnerable children, then older nursery children. Once we know numbers of children wanting to return, we will be in touch with which group/which dates your child can come in. There will be staggered drop off and pick up times for each group to help avoid too many people gathering all at once and allow us to wash hands of the group of children before the next group arrive.
- If initially you decide not to send your child in and then your circumstances change and you do want a place we will need to ask for a week's notice as we will have to look at our capacity for this.
- We ask that you bring your child in clean clothes each day, children are not required to wear uniform.
- Nursery hours will be staggered for a morning session only unless your child is eligible for 30 hours.
- If the 'R' rate rises then we may need to close Nursery again – this advice will be given to us from the Government.
- If we do not have enough staff to work in Nursery due to sickness then we may have to close for some children.
- If you use public transport to get to Nursery please follow guidance from the DfE about this <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Adults must wear a face mask/covering on public transport but children under 11 do not have to.

Our risk assessment is extremely detailed and you are welcome to request a copy of it, please ring Jacqui or email admin@ashfield.newcastle.sch.uk

We have followed strict guidance if a child or member of staff shows coronavirus symptoms in Nursery. If this situation occurs the child/member of staff will be moved to our dedicated isolation room until they can be picked up or go home. All other children in that group will also be sent home until the outcome of the test is known – we will let you know this.

We understand that the Nursery environment will feel very different to children and we are going to do a walkaround video of the nursery for children to see before returning. We have also purchased some new books to support our children's wellbeing.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us. We understand many of you are uncertain about sending your child back and we respect your wishes. We will continue to post learning opportunities on our website and

Facebook page and will try to mirror some of the things we do in Nursery for children at home. We currently do not know what Nursery will be like in September – we await further guidance from the Government.

Please email in or ring up to let us know if you would like your child to return to nursery and once we have definite numbers then we will contact you again about when your child can come in.

Yours faithfully

Carolyn Jubb
Assistant Headteacher

Early Years Guidance (all guidance can be found online by searching DfE Coronavirus)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>