



December Update!

Welcome to our December Newsletter. We hope you are all beginning to look forward to the Christmas holidays.

Thank you to our families for ensuring that we are maintaining social distancing expectations, continuing to use our sanitising stations and using face coverings for drop off and pick up. This is an important part of our nursery routine and procedures to ensure that we are keeping our children, staff, and families safe.

Christmas

We have kept the Christmas decorations to a minimum in nursery as we are mindful of the potential surface transfer of the virus and the necessity for clear spaces for cleaning within the playrooms. However, this is not stopping the fun festive activities the staff have organised for the children over the next few weeks.

On the week of 14th December, we will be holding mini-Christmas parties, having virtual Santa and lots of Christmas activities. The children will also receive their Christmas gift and goodie bag which Santa has already delivered and are currently in quarantine. The official Christmas Jumper Day is Friday 11th December however we will be having Christmas jumper, top or outfit days from the 14th December through till we close on the 23rd December.

Christmas Gifts from Home

There is never any expectation that gifts are bought for staff, and although they are hugely appreciated, we are acutely aware that this is always a challenging time of year for many of our families. Given the current situation with COVID there are more pressures and guidance than normal that we need to follow. We would ask that if you are wanting to send a gift in for the staff this year, this will need to be delivered to the playroom where it will either be quarantined for 72 hours or cleaned before being issued.

Staffing Update

On the 23rd December sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Siobhan, Lisa Espener, Shannon and Magda. We are losing Siobhan and Lisa to the local authority, Shannon is making a slight change to her career and Magda is taking a break with her family. We would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication during their time with us and would like to wish them all the very best in their future career path.

On the 5th January we will be welcoming Karyn Mckinnon, Molly Reape, Katie Craig and Emma Balfour to the nursery team.

We have been actively advertising and hope to continue this into the new year.

Sickness/Illness

Points to Remember:

NHS Lothian advises anyone experiencing one or more COVID-19 symptoms to stay at home, self-isolate with their households, and arrange testing for COVID-19 via the NHS Inform website or by phoning 0800 028 2816.

These symptoms are:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A fever and/or
- A loss or change in smell/taste

A negative test result – the child can return to nursery.

- If your child has had a high temperature for any reason, they must not have a high temperature for 48 hours before returning to nursery.
- If you have given your child calpol (paracetamol) or Ibuprofen for any reason they must **not** attend nursery.
- If your child has been prescribed anti-biotics for any medical reason, they are required to remain absent for **48** hours.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

All clothing provided for weather appropriate play **MUST** be clearly labelled. Please ensure your child has the following items to allow them to access all play experiences, scarfs, gloves, hats, wellies, and waterproof suits.

These items must remain in the nursery where possible.

Staying Safe During the Christmas Break:

The safest way to spend Christmas and the festive period is to stay in your own household, in your own home and your own local area.

Scottish Government are allowing people to meet up in a limited way however this does not mean that you have to do so. It is a personal choice.

Everyone should think carefully about the risks involved in increasing the number of people you have contact with, particularly if you or your loved ones are at a higher risk from coronavirus. The virus won't take Christmas off. If we provide it with opportunities to spread from household to household, it is likely to take them.

If you choose to spend Christmas with family and friends, there is guidance available which aims to help you stay as safe as possible.

Please use the link below to access the guidance over the festive period.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for festive period - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Coronavirus/COVID-19/guidance-for-festive-period)

If any child or parent develops symptoms between the 21st December and the 26th December can you please contact Lynn on her personal mobile 07805846403 as we are required to notify public health for the purposes of track and trace.

If your child or any family member develops symptoms and are required to isolate during the Christmas Break that may impact on your child returning to nursery on the 5th January, please contact Lynn on 07805846403.

Following the Christmas holidays, we would ask all of our families to be extra vigilant and be aware of the potential increase in infection rates due to the social contacts some of our families may have during the festive break

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5th January – nursery re-opens

We hope you find this interesting and please do speak with a member of staff if you would like further details or if you would like to comment or make suggestions for future topics.