



## Autumn Update!

Thank you to our families for ensuring that we are maintaining social distancing expectations. This is an important part of our return to nursery and will ensure that we are following the guidance from Scottish Government to keep our children, staff, and families safe.

Thank you for the continued support, understanding and patience from our parents as we continue to work with the guidance to bring more normality to the nursery days for our children.

The continued words of kindness and support are very much appreciated.

### Staffing Update

We are excited to welcome Katherine to our nursery team; Katherine is a qualified nursery practitioner and will be joining us in the bluebell room from the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. Shannon from our bluebell room has decided to widen her nursery experience and will be joining the daisy team from week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please inform the nursery either through the Family app or by telephone (0131 665 4136) before 9am. If possible, please indicate when you expect him/her to return.

### Sickness/Illness

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

If a child develops other types of symptoms but DOES NOT have any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, the standard nursery illness policy should be followed. This would also apply to anyone who has one of the symptoms of COVID-19 but tested negative.

What this means is:

- Children who have mild symptoms, such as a blocked/runny nose or a mild sore throat, but not presenting with any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, can still go to nursery if they are well enough to do so. However, they should stay at home if they are too ill to be at nursery or if they are taking Calpol or Ibuprofen for any health reason. The Health Protection Team's document 'Recommended Periods of Absence for Communicable Diseases' provides detailed information for nurseries and will be followed. This is important as other infections, with different symptoms to COVID-19, can be passed around the nursery.
- If a child tests negative for COVID-19 they can return to nursery if they are well enough (as per standard nursery illness policy) and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If your child has been prescribed anti-biotics for any medical reason, they are required to remain absent for 48 hours.

### **Weather Appropriate Clothing**

As the weather is turning colder and wetter can we please ask that all parents provide weather appropriate clothing such as scarfs, gloves, hats, wellies, and waterproof suits for all children to enjoy outdoor play. These items must remain in the nursery where possible.

### **Items from Home**

Can we please remind parents to only bring to nursery your child's appropriate outdoor clothing and water bottles and that all items brought in are clearly labelled.

Except for the baby room we cannot allow toys or comforters from home. Any items that are brought to nursery, staff will ask the parents to take these home. Most comforters for our children are already kept within the nursery and are not transferred between home and nursery. This is important as it minimises the risk to our children, staff, and families. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

### **What have we been doing since reopening:**

This month we have been able to revert to normal booking patterns for our playrooms, re-opening 7.30am till 6pm (5.45pm pick up)

We will monitor these changes over the forthcoming weeks to ensure the safety of the children and staff remain unaffected.

Every planned change has been introduced in a slow and safe way to keep the risks as low as possible. We will continue to operate in this way monitoring and reviewing each change.

To minimise the risk in the nursery the Daisy room are currently operating in two area. The playroom and the activity space while also accessing the garden and the local community.

Within the nursery we continue to review risk assessments in place for each individual playroom and for the communal areas around the nursery. We continue to clean every hour all touch surfaces and high-risk areas alongside our evening cleaning routine. We are fogging the nursery and garden areas every Wednesday and Sunday.

Children and staff are regularly washing hands when entering the building, before and after eating, toileting and going from area to area and continue to use the outdoor hand washing stations.

We continue to have multiple hand sanitising stations around the nursery for staff and for parents when dropping off and picking up.

Every room has a COVID 19 folder. This folder is updated as and when we receive new information or guidance, and all staff review this folder weekly.

Staff are now required to wear face coverings in all communal areas of the nursery to further minimise any risks.

In the nursery the staff have been using fun and imaginative ideas to engage children in a positive way while they establish the new routines. The children have experienced warmth, caring and nurturing approaches that ensure their personal development and care needs are being met.

Staff have been using the Family app daily to ensure we maintain effective communication with our families.

All children have a new target set in their care plans and the children's development will continue to be recorded through the Family app where parents can see their child's progress.

Thank you to our families who have been vigilant and have taken the necessary precautions by keeping your child off if they are unwell or by taking them to be tested where this was felt necessary. We would encourage our families to continue doing this to ensure we are all working together to keep the nursery safe and secure and as low risk as possible. Where children are being tested, we ask that you notify us of this and provide us with the negative test result before the child returns to the nursery.

Within the nursery we have more control over minimising the risk to our children, staff, and families with the procedures and guidance we have in place and are following. Unfortunately we have no control over what happens out

with the nursery building and would therefore like to remind everyone of the Scottish Government Guidance that we must all follow to ensure we Stay Safe, Protect Others and Save Lives.

### **Halloween**

This year we are hosting a pumpkin decorating competition, we are asking those families who wish to take part to decorate a pumpkin anyway you wish, take a photo of it and send it to the playrooms throughout the month of October where it will be added to a room collage. During our Halloween week, week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> of October we shall send these collages out to the rooms via family where each family can vote for their favourite. Every child will receive a little Halloween goody bag and the two winners, announced on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October in each room will receive a medal and certificate. The individual playrooms will be in touch regarding activities and plans during the Halloween week.

### **Christmas**

We have been working hard on our Christmas cards which parents can order. Once all the rooms have had a chance to design these cards you will be sent the unique code and information in which you can purchase various gifts and cards, these must be ordered by the end of the month to be ready in time.

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our usual Christmas coffee morning or the children's Christmas parties. Staff have been looking at ways in which we can still make this time of year just as exciting and have decided to have a Christmas week of fun filled festive activities and snacks, with a video chat from the jolly man in the red suit, please look out for more information from the playrooms. We will send out a letter regarding Christmas by the end of the month.

### **Room Moves**

During your child's time in the nursery they will grow and develop. During this time, we begin to plan and decide on room moves based on a child's age and stage of development. The guidance that we are currently working to has reduced our room capacities which will make the normal room moves parents may expect to happen more difficult to achieve.

If your child is approaching the age where you would be expecting them to move playrooms, this is highly likely to be delayed as we are currently operating at full capacity under the COVID 19 restrictions. We would like to reassure our families that all children will receive the appropriate learning experiences for each age and stage regardless of the room they will be in. Our qualified staff team will ensure that regardless of the environment the play and learning experience will be relevant to each individual child's needs and will be based on the appropriate curriculum. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact your child's playroom to allow us the opportunity to reassure you at this time.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October (October Break)

23<sup>rd</sup> December Christmas Break

*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.*