



Welcome Back!

We cannot begin to tell you how wonderful it has been to see our children and families back at Almond Park Nursery. We know that there were a lot of nerves alongside the excitement, but it has been wonderful to see the children settle so quickly. There has been a real buzz around the nursery.

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 work through the guidance to bring more normality to the nursery days for our children.

The words of kindness and support has and is continuing to help us through this difficult time.

Staffing Update

Lisa Gillan has started her leave of absence from the nursery. Lisa will continue to pop in and catch up with us during her period of absence. We are all thinking of Lisa just now and sending her our thoughts and best wishes.

We have advertised and interviewed to cover Lisa's position and will keep you informed when an acceptance for the job has been received.

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.

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.

Items from Home

Can we please remind parents to only bring to nursery your child's appropriate outdoor clothing and water bottles. Except for the baby room we cannot accept 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:

We have successfully resettled our children back into the nursery routine through our reconnection days.

The staff worked extremely hard to organise the children into bubble groups offering 2 days of childcare (following Scottish Government Guidance) since re-opening.

This week we have been able to revert to normal booking patterns for our Buttercup Room and our Bluebell Room 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.

We are continuing to work through the guidance and will slowly introduce more days to some of the children attending in our Daisy room with hopefully all children attending normal booking patterns from October 2020.

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.

Within the nursery we have our risk assessments in place for each individual playroom and for the communal areas around the nursery. We are reviewing these continually. We are cleaning 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. We have introduced outdoor hand washing stations and have installed new indoor toilets, windows and sinks.

We 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.

The staff have been working exceptionally hard to ensure the children are being nurtured and supported throughout the changed experiences in the nursery. We have communicated with all our families prior to re-opening to learn of any changes in your child during lockdown to ensure we continue to meet these needs when they returned to nursery.

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.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Unfortunately, we will be unable this year to hold our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. We hope that perhaps by Spring next year we will all be in a better place and perhaps we can hold a Spring/Summer Fayre.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th and 21st September (September weekend)

19th - 23rd October (October Break)

23rd 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.