

Attending learning & care during the CoViD-19 health emergency

Information for Parents of Children in Early Years

Since 23rd March, only the children of critical workers and vulnerable children have been attending our setting. Now, the Department for Education and Hartlepool LA, in the light of scientific and medical advice, have given permission for the wider opening of early years and school settings, to children in daycare, from birth to the age of 5, and children of Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6.

We are beginning this wider opening from Monday, 8th June by welcoming those children in the eligible age-groups and classes, who have not attended since 23rd March. They will visit for an induction session during the week beginning Monday 8th June, where they will meet their key worker or teacher. During the next week, beginning on Monday 15th June, they will be introduced to the other children in their 'bubble' over a series of sessions, ready to attend full-time their allocated sessions from the following week, beginning on Monday, 22nd June.

School and Early years is very different to the setting other children left on Friday, 20th March. We would be very grateful if parents could talk through the changes and discuss the return of other children where appropriate. So that all children will feel part of the setting, there are changes to which everyone will adjust over the next few weeks, which we have explained in this leaflet.

Preparing to come to setting

Early Years Kit

There are a few things to which each child should have access, that we hope parents will provide, including:

- a hat & suntan lotion (labelled) – we expect to spend more time outside so on sunny days please apply before coming and children will re-apply during day (assisted as necessary);
- a box of tissues;
- a change of clothes;

Additionally if needed:

- dummy or comforter, that can stay in school and be easily cleaned;
- bottles or special cup if needed for feeding;
- nappies and wipes, as appropriate;
- if toilet-training, additional 5 changes of bottoms and underclothes, which we will then use and wash in setting.

If these could be delivered, in a labelled carrier bag, to the setting, before children return full-time, and at the latest by Friday, 12th June. You will be informed when or if re-fill is needed.

Clothing

Children need to wear clothes that can easily be washed when they return home from setting, so it is recommended that children try to wear a variation of 'summer uniform', namely shorts and t-shirt (if possible, in one of our school colours in reception – jade, white, blue, red, yellow and green) one of which could be their PE top. The blue gingham dress would also be an option. (We are not changing into slippers during this period).

Handwashing & respiratory hygiene

This is the most important way that children can protect themselves and others from the spread of the virus in setting. Children need to wash their hands thoroughly:

- On arrival;
- Before and after eating;
- After any activities during which they have touched potentially infected surfaces, such as after being outdoors;
- After using the toilet;
- After coughing or sneezing and disposing of the tissue;
- Before leaving for home.

Dependent upon age and practise, children will have hands washed by or with a practitioner as they learn.

Trapping coughs and sneezes in a tissue (or the crook of the arm in emergencies), disposing of the tissue and washing hands afterwards, helps reduce the risk of spreading infection. This will become even more important in the Autumn, as the usual colds and 'flu' begin to spread.

Social Distance

Workstations have been positioned so there is a distance of 2 m from others. Teachers and practitioners will maintain social distance from themselves and the children as much as possible, which means teaching will be very different.

Moving around the setting will be supervised to ensure children are safe. Outdoors, the children will be reminded to maintain their distance while playing. Obviously, for first aid or comforting a child closer contact will be required.

Arriving at the setting

Handing over children

For all children of critical workers and all daycare children, regardless of their start time, drop-off will take place in the rear school garden. Where transfer of very young children may take more time, covered areas are in place and practitioners will meet parents there.

For other children, in reception and nursery, they will arrive for their time slot at the playground garden gate, from the front to the far left of the school, where they will be met by a practitioner.

After 9.00 am, parents bringing children need to press the buzzer at the early years' gate for the particular room their child is accessing, so that a key worker, known to the child will come to the garden to collect them.

In setting

Bubbles

Children will be in much smaller groups than usual, with no more than 15 children in each group. These 'bubbles' will spend all their time together in setting, have separate times outdoors and even take their lunches as separate 'bubbles'. All 'bubbles' will be available from 7.45 – 5.45 for those requiring extended provision or to meet their sessional allocation.

Meals

Universal free school meals will be provided for all children in Reception and hot meals are available to book for nursery children. To reduce the amount of equipment coming in and out of the setting each day, it might be safer if children took the school meal rather than bringing packed-lunches from home. (If children prefer a packed-lunch then please wash the lunch-box thoroughly when it returns home, and wipe down the external surface with a disinfectant wipe before leaving the house each morning. The lunch box will be stored in the child's box.)

Illness

At this time, please be vigilant and keep children away from the setting at the first sign of illness and err on the side of caution. Please do not use the normal, "See how you feel later" approach.

If children become ill while at setting, then parents will be contacted, as usual, to come to collect them. (During this period, we will contact parents/carers only, so they can decide the best course of action.) If a CoViD-19 infection is suspected the child will be isolated, supervised from outside the room or by someone in PPE if they need closer support, while awaiting collection. While we recognise that lots of childhood illnesses and teething are accompanied by high temperature and cough, as you might expect, we will be extremely cautious at this time, so expect to be called for conditions that we previously may not even have mentioned.

We will inform all parents of children if a case of CoViD-19 is confirmed in their room and provide Public Health England advice and instructions.

Leaving the setting

Collecting children

All children of critical workers, regardless of their finish times, will be collected from the school garden. For early years, where transfer of very young children may take more time, covered areas are in place and practitioners will bring children to there.

When collecting children, use the buzzer at the early years' gate to contact the relevant room, so the key worker can make sure your child is ready for collection. (Those in reception need to buzz for the early years office.)

Other reception and nursery children, leaving at the end of the school day, will be taken to meet parents from the garden gate from the front and to the far left of school.

Washing clothes

It is advised that children remove their day clothes and wash thoroughly as soon as they arrive home. Thus, it will be helpful to consider which clothes your child wears in setting so they are easily washed each day.

Contacting the setting

Attendance

Parents requiring breakfast or tea clubs should book their children into the setting by Thursday of the preceding week by emailing admin.

As usual, please call the setting each morning, if your child will be absent due to illness or alternate shift-patterns. It would be very helpful, if this call could be made before your child is expected to arrive.

Administration

Please do not enter the setting, unless by appointment. For practical and administrative issues, please telephone early years office.

Learning

All children, including those accessing as children of critical workers will be accessing an adapted EYFS curriculum.

Tapestry, our real-time reporting platform, will continue to be useful for contact between home and practitioners to support learning. Teachers and practitioners will not be available before or after sessions as they are normally. They will arrive in the setting 'just-in time' and leave as soon as possible after their teaching time, to reduce contact and any spreading of the infection to others. Thus, to speak with the teacher leading your child's 'bubble', please telephone to make a telephone appointment.

We will also use the 'Care Diary' function of Tapestry to provide information about meals, sleeps, toileting and accidents.

Contacts

Email: admin@sjvschool.co.uk (for bookings)

Telephone: 01429 273273 (absence/to make appointments)

If your contact details change, please make sure we know immediately.