



Renfrew Street Nursery School



2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Latest Covid-19 Guidance for Nurseries

The Scottish Government have just updated their guidance for nurseries so I wish to make parents aware of the following updates:

There are further guidelines on the wearing of face coverings. Staff are not required to wear face coverings when working directly with children however they will be wearing them when they are not working with the children. **From today, I ask that parents/carers wear a face covering when dropping and collecting children.** I am aware that there may be good medical reasons why some parents cannot wear a face covering – therefore please don't feel that you will be challenged by us on this; it is simply a polite request to follow the guidance. **Please also continue keeping 2 metres distancing from other parents.** I know that at times you may have to wait for several minutes for your child to get ready – thank you for your patience.

The guidance says that "singing shouldn't happen indoors as an organised, large group activity". This is because there is some risk of transmission by air which is higher during singing or noisy activities. Singing is a huge part of young children's learning, especially developing spoken language and vocabulary, and contributes to early reading skills as they develop something called "phonological awareness". **Therefore, we are taking what I believe to be a safe and balanced approach by only allowing small group singing at nursery (i.e. within upstairs and downstairs groups).** We have further safety measures in place for these activities like increased fresh air through windows being open and sensible positioning of children and adults during singing.

The guidance on COVID-19 symptoms is that previous advice "should be strongly reinforced". Therefore **I would like to remind parents of our very strict rules on illness:**

- **If your child, or anyone within your household, has a high temperature, a cough or a loss of taste or smell, your whole household should isolate for 14 days and your child should not come to nursery, unless they have tested negative for COVID-19 after they have had symptoms.** A test can be booked through the NHS Inform website. I know that these are very strict rules, and coughs and temperatures are

common in children, however it is essential that all of our families follow these rules to reduce any risks from COVID-19

- If your child has an unexplained skin rash, they should remain off nursery until a doctor has been able to confirm what it is
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they should stay off nursery until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped
- If your child is unwell with any others symptoms, they should stay off nursery until they feel well enough to return
- **Please make sure that you let us know if your child is off for any reason, or if you have them tested**

If you have any questions, please get in touch. These are not easy times however we are determined as a team to maintain a fun, safe, positive and stimulating learning environment for our children to secure their learning and their future.

Yours sincerely



Steve Rivers

Head of Nursery