



31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

## Renfrew Street Nursery School



Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we received the latest Government guidance and requirements about the operation of nurseries, which takes effect from 12<sup>th</sup> August. The previous guidance (which we are currently following) continues until then.

You can read the full guidance here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reopening-early-learning-and-childcare-services/>

This is a long document but covers in some detail what nurseries are required to do for safety and wellbeing of everyone during this pandemic. It does mean that from 12<sup>th</sup> August we will be able to offer much more like a full nursery service, including close to the usual pattern of days and times that we were offering before. The guidance does state though that “we cannot yet return to normal nursery practice”.

Some of the existing requirements will continue:

- Additional cleaning of the nursery, in particular between groups of children who are sharing play resources and play spaces/rooms
- Limiting contacts between groups/bubbles of children during the nursery day. Children will be able to be part of a much larger group of 25-30 children, rather than the current 8 children, which is similar to primary school guidance
- We need to increase and improve the use of outdoors space to offer great outdoors learning and play experiences more often
- Adults will still be keeping 2 metres physical distancing with each other (although not to children) which means that staggered drop-off times for children happening outside the building will continue
- There are still very strong requirements for anyone with symptoms (a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a change of taste or smell) to not attend nursery at all and stay off for 10 days, including if someone else in the household has these symptoms

I am meeting with colleagues within Glasgow City Council early next week to decide upon a few things about nursery provision:

- What further cleaning needs to happen including between groups of children (for example between morning and afternoon sessions and after lunch-times)
- What our daily routine will look like including pickups and drop offs and use of space for the groups of children

We will welcome existing children back from 12<sup>th</sup> August, to more like their normal patterns of nursery attendance, however the specific times will be confirmed by me next week. I must highlight that it is possible that some children may need to move between keyworker groups to enable safe organisation of routines, and I will give further details when I have them. It is possible that your child's nursery keyworker may change, however if this does happen we will all do whatever is necessary to ensure children's wellbeing and positive relationships are at the centre of our thinking.

Finally, I would just like to say the team are all excited about progressing towards offering the same good quality play and learning experiences to your children as we did before, supporting you in your own return to work (or more normal routine at least) and nurturing your children through their learning journey with us.

I know that some of you would prefer to discuss the arrangements in person. I am in nursery all of next week – please phone if you would like to discuss. I can chat either by telephone or you can arrange to meet me safely outside in the nursery garden. If you would like an interpreter for this, I can arrange this although it may take a little longer to arrange. I can also be emailed at [srivers@renfrewstreet-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:srivers@renfrewstreet-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk)

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Rivers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Steve Rivers* - Head of Nursery