



Renfrew Street Nursery School



4th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETURN OF NURSERY

Nursery has been open to some children since the 23rd July and I have been very pleased with how the children have settled back in. Now we are looking ahead to the further reopening of nurseries to all of our existing families from 12th August (Monday and Tuesday 10th and 11th August we are closed due to in-service days staff training). Many of you will have experienced some of the safety measures we currently have in place and if so I certainly hope that you feel confident and assured about our arrangements for safe provision following the COVID-19 nursery closure. Please follow us on Twitter (search for @Renfrewstreet) for latest updates on children's learning and play and some of our procedures.

Last week I shared a summary of some of the latest guidance about the safe reopening of nurseries from the Scottish Government. I intend to give you more detail in this letter, as well as more information about session times and organisation of the nursery day. There is also information which is useful on the Parent Club website: <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/startback/scottish-nurseries-reopening>. The Scottish Government guidance does state though that "we cannot yet return to normal nursery practice" however we aim to support working families as much as possible and support children in their progress in learning and development, in partnership with parents/carers, and get back to as close to normal operation as we can. **At the bottom of this letter is a summary of the information.**

Safety Guidance and organisation of nursery (from 12th August)

- A child or adult with the following symptoms: a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a change of taste or smell, **should not attend nursery at all and stay off for 10 days, or 14 days if someone else in the household has these symptoms.** The advice is that anyone with these symptoms should be tested which can be arranged through this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>
- The nursery will be split into 2 groups of children, each group with only 25-30 children between the morning, afternoon and over the course of a week. One group will be based upstairs and one group downstairs, with the same group of staff most of time. This reduces the chances of cross infection between children. The upstairs group and downstairs group will have access to separate play areas outdoors with their own play resources. Only a few children will be changing who their keyworker is and I will contact these parents to discuss this individually.
- We will increase and improve the use of outdoors space to offer great outdoors learning and play experiences more often, which allows more space for children to play and supports their health and development as outdoors play all year round and in almost all weathers has been shown to improve children's health and development and also reduces the chances of cross infection. To support us to

provide good outdoors play, we do require as many parents as possible to provide a pair of wellies and a waterproof outdoors jacket and trousers or all-in-one suit for your child. We have a number of pairs of wellies and sets of outdoors clothing however guidance requires children not to share these at all. We do not have enough suits and wellies for every child at present therefore if you provide suitable outdoors clothing, this supports our plan for outdoors and it also means your child is likely to be most comfortable with their own clothing. I am aware from past discussions with parents that some parents do not feel entirely comfortable with outdoors play during bad weather, however evidence about the health benefits to children is clear and we have a responsibility to meet children's needs and choices. You will soon be able to read our Outdoors Play Policy which was due to go out to consultation with parents in March but was postponed due to the closure.

- Additional cleaning of the nursery will take place, both during the day and throughout the week. Children's shared play resources will be cleaned more often. Children should try to avoid bringing any toys to nursery from home, however we will work with you to enable children who benefit from a settling toy or teddy to be able to be well supported.
- Adults (staff and parents) will still be keeping 2 metres physical distancing with each other (although not to children). The guidance does not require us to distance from children within our group, or to wear face coverings, and it seems clear that physical distancing or wearing of face masks with young children is not good for their social and emotional development.
- The guidance requires us to avoid large groups of adults together at the nursery entrance at busy pick up and drop off times and also requires us to avoid adults coming into nursery as much as possible. We will therefore continue to meet parents dropping and collecting in the nursery front garden or at the front door. Whilst we will not continue specific drop off times, as I believe this is impractical and confusing, I would ask that parents who have siblings at school have priority between 8.30am and 9.15am for drop offs. **If your child does not have siblings at school, please try and avoid dropping off between 8.30am and 9.15am – you should drop children before or after these times.** I also ask that only one adult/parent drops and collects children and also that you please keep 2 metres separate from other parents. We will keep this arrangement under review as we will need to ensure everyone feels safe and physically distanced when dropping and collecting at nursery. I also ask you to be patient because at busy times you may need to wait a short time for us to support children coming into nursery in turn. We will certainly do our very best to keep any wait for parents and children to a minimum.

There are some changes to session times and lunch arrangements:

- The morning session is now 8.00am to 12.00pm and morning children will no longer stay for lunch. The reason for this is that it is not possible for us to offer lunch to the number of children that we did before, due to the more stringent requirements for intensive cleaning between children in different nursery groups.
- We will still offer a hot lunch to children who attend nursery for full days. Lunch will take place over 2 sittings (11.45am and 12.30pm) for the upstairs group and downstairs group separately.
- The afternoon session will start a little later at 1.15pm which enables us to manage a good transition for the later lunch group and the welcoming of the afternoon children in to nursery.
- Other full day session times will remain as before.

I hope soon we can return to our previous session times.

- We need parents and carers to tell us if you have travelled abroad in the last 14 days so that we can ensure that the latest required isolation/quarantine guidelines from travel abroad are adhered to. The list of countries which **don't** require any isolation/quarantine arrangement can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>

We will soon have several new children starting nursery over the coming weeks. If you are a parent or carer of a newly starting child, I look forward to meeting you very soon. You should already have received from me a starting week and later this week I will let you know of a specific start date and time and who your child's keyworker will be. We are currently unable to do the home visits that we normally do, however we will complete your child's individual plan in discussion with you at your first visit. We aim to carry out as many settle visits as possible within the outdoors space of the nursery.

One final reminder to parents: your child's online "Learning Journal" has photos of their play and learning at nursery, and descriptions of their progress. Please ensure you regularly log in to this system for updates as I'm sure you will be delighted to see what they have been doing and even discuss the activities and pictures with your child. Some parents have rarely (or never) logged in to this system and I can only imagine it is because you are unclear of how to log in. Everyone has been sent login information from learning journals previously so please search your email to find the information to access this, or ask myself or Sharon if this doesn't work.

I also have some final news that we have a new Support for Learning Worker, Nusrat Jabeen, starting at Renfrew Street next week. Nusrat will be at nursery 5 days per week and I hope you will have opportunity to meet her soon.

Summary for parents

- All current children return on Wed 12th August
- Any child with symptoms (*persistent cough, temperature, change in or loss of smell or taste*) should stay off nursery for 10 days, or for 14 days if someone else in your household has these symptoms
- Please provide a pair of wellies and waterproof outdoors clothing if possible
- Drop off and collection will take place outside, in front of nursery
- If your child does **not** have siblings at school, please try and avoid dropping off between 8.30am and 9.15am
- Please limit to one adult dropping and collecting children and ensure you keep 2 metres from others
- Morning session is now 8.00am-12.00pm with no lunch, just morning snack
- Full day sessions remain the same (and include lunch)
- Afternoon sessions are 1.15pm-5.50pm
- Tell us if you have travelled abroad in the last 14 days
- Check your child's online learning journal regularly

I know that some of you would prefer to discuss the new arrangements in person, or have further questions. I am in nursery all of this week – please phone if you would like to discuss anything. 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 . I look forward to seeing you all soon.

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