



Going to Pre-School and Nursery – Covid 19 Information for Parents/Carers

- **Health** – **Children and staff must not attend the setting if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus.** Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period should attend.

Children who have been shielding, or have family members that have been shielding, will be able to attend pre-school from 1 August 2020. If rates of disease rise in our local area children, or family members, will be advised to shield during the period when rates remain high.

Some children who are no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to the setting, usually at their next planned clinical appointment.

- **Groups** The children will form a group within their classroom each day that they attend. As much as possible we will aim to ensure they remain within their group and do not mix with children from another group. Our three separate self-contained classrooms will form the basis of these groups, each with their own separate designated play area.

New children will join the pre-school groups throughout the year, if we deem it safe to do so.

- **Class sizes** – Our class sizes in September are expected to be a maximum of 12 children in both Glenton and Seal and a maximum of 10 children in Llewellyn. These numbers may increase during the year in accordance with EYFS, Government and Local Authority guidelines.
- **Attending More than One Childcare Provider** – Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently.

Childminders should consider how they can work with parents to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys for example pick-ups and drop-offs at schools to reduce the need to travel with groups of children. If it is necessary for a childminder to pick up or drop off a child at school, walking is preferable. If this is not practicable, then a private vehicle is preferable to public transport.

- **Dropping Off** – Whilst waiting to drop off your child parents/carers will be required to maintain 2m social distancing measures and queue up at the correct gate. Distance markers on the fence will be provided for guidance.
 - Seal children queue to the right of the main entrance gate;
 - Llewellyn to the left of the main entrance gate;
 - Glenton to the left of the Glenton gate.

Parents/carers must not gather at the gates.

Only one parent or carer must attend the setting when dropping off or picking up.



Social distancing between staff and parents will be maintained at this time and conversations kept to a minimum.

- Signing In – A member of staff will be on the gate and will sign your child in. Your child, and their belongings, will enter through the gate and be met by one of the room staff that will be looking after them. Llewellyn children, who share the same gate as Seal, will enter first.
- Bags and Belongings – Your child will need to bring in a named bag with their belongings (changes of clothes and shoes – we will not provide spare clothing, nappies, wipes, nappy bags, sun hat, sun cream etc). This bag will be left at preschool and not returned home until the end of the week. It will be your responsibility to remind us if your child's last day is not Friday! Soiled or wet clothing (we will still be enjoying water play), nappies, wipes etc will be returned at the end of each session and you may need to replenish items accordingly – please also supply some bags/carrier bags to send clothing home in.
- Clothing – Remember to send your child to preschool in weather appropriate clothing that enables them to be as comfortable and independent as possible. Our rooms will be well ventilated so an extra layer (cardigan/jumper/fleece) may be useful to have available. We will be making use of our outside space in all weathers. Please ensure that your child is sent in clean clothing each day. Dressing up clothes should be kept for use at home and not worn to pre-school.
- Show and Tell – Items from home for show and tell, personal toys etc are not to be brought to pre-school. Attachment toys should be washed each evening.
- Snack and Lunch – The children will sit down for snack and lunch at the same time as the rest of their group. They will be allocated a 'named' chair and spaced at the ends of our tables.

Please provide your child with a healthy snack and if they attend all day one for the afternoon too. All day and afternoon session children also require a healthy lunch box. Lunch boxes should be of the plastic container type or similar, not the cloth/fabric bag style. Lunchboxes will be sent home at the end of each day.

To help us minimise contact with your child's food please provide everything in a child friendly and manageable size so that they are as independent as possible and packaging that they can try to manage themselves. If you are sending a yogurt, pasta or item that needs cutlery please remember to provide a spoon or fork. We will be providing water and milk throughout the sessions.

- Hygiene and Transmission – Unlike older children and adults, early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. By following guidance on the system of controls it will effectively reduce risks in the setting and create an inherently safer environment.



System of Controls

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning
- Good respiratory hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of resources and environment
- Minimising contact and mixing between groups
- Where necessary wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Use of face coverings (where recommended).

We will support in age appropriate ways the children to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe including regular hand washing and sneezing into a tissue.

- Cleaning – Regular cleaning of resources and our environment is critical. We have put in place a system to clean throughout the day in every room. Our resources have been selected to provide only those that can be easily cleaned. Some items, ie scissors, mark making equipment and books will be unique to the daily group. Sand will not be available. Drinking cups will be regularly sterilized.
- Sun Hats and Sun Cream – We are always hopeful that the weather will be sunny so please ensure that your child has a sun hat and sun cream. They need to arrive for their session with sun cream already applied. As we will be practicing a lot of hand washing, and enjoying water activities outside, extra sun cream for reapplication will be required. We will be encouraging the children to apply this themselves therefore a manageable named tube/bottle would be appreciated. We will not be able to provide any sun cream at the present time.
- Parent/Pre-school Conversations – If you need to have a detailed conversation with Pre-School staff this will need to be organised as opposed to ad hoc 'on the gate'. Please email to arrange this.



- Responding to a Suspected Case

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>What Pre-School Will Do</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the setting, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will telephone you immediately to collect your child. • Please ensure that we have the correct contact numbers at all times. • We will contact Public Health England and notify them of your child's details and symptoms as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst waiting for the child to be collected they should be isolated from others in a previously identified room. If possible, a window should be opened for ventilation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child will be taken to Llewellyn meeting room and kept there with a member of staff until collection. • Windows will be open for ventilation. • Llewellyn classroom staff will be informed and use an alternative exit from their room. • One staff member remaining with the group will take the children outside, the other staff member will clean the classroom and resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff member responsible for the child during this time should be a staff member from their group. The setting should provide suitable PPE for this staff member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE will be provided for staff members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A separate toilet should be allocated for this child or member of staff to use. No-one else should use this toilet until after the child or member of staff have left and it has been thoroughly cleaned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The toilet within the meeting room will be available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area should be thoroughly cleaned, immediately if the area cannot be left unvisited, and if the area can be left unvisited then cleaned after 72 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area will be thoroughly cleaned immediately by the staff member that looked after the child using standard cleaning products. • Waste items will be double bagged, stored and disposed of in accordance with current Government guidelines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff call 999 immediately.
<p>1) If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with coronavirus symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.</p> <p>2) Tests are now available for under 5 year olds. Initially you are advised to speak to your GP who can verify symptoms and examine the child (possibly virtually) to see if the symptoms are not due to something else.</p> <p>3) Public Health England (PHE) have deemed that children are at lower risk so the group may not need to be kept at home. Early Years settings need to speak to PHE if they have a child displaying symptoms in the setting, and they will risk assess and advise further.</p>	



- Absence – The parent of any child that does not attend a booked session will be contacted as a matter of urgency to establish why they are absent, and establish if they are able to return, what their symptoms are (if applicable) and record this.
- Home/School Diaries – We will not be using home/school diaries to communicate but instead will aim to email a short message relating to your child's day. We will use the email address that you provided to request your sessions.
- Picking Up – This will roughly follow the same procedure as dropping off. Once again, please respect social distancing measures, line up in the same places as for drop off, restrict collection to one parent/carer only and refrain from gathering in groups. We will bring the children to the gate to meet you and sign them out as you leave with them.
- Anxiety and Trauma - Following Government guidance we recognise the importance of adopting a trauma informed approach. More children than ever will be living with anxiety as a result of the pandemic and this will affect their ability to learn. This may include children who were not previously identified as experiencing anxiety or SEND – if you have any concerns or questions relating to anxiety or trauma please ensure that the setting is made aware of this before your child returns as we may need to prepare as smooth a transition back into preschool as possible.