



Newsletter

Ferring Funtime Community Preschool Newsletter for Parents & Children

12th January 2021



Happy New Year to all of our families and a big Thank you for the lovely gifts and cards you sent to us at the end of term. Your kind words are always appreciated.

COVID - 19

Due to the rapid increase in Coronavirus transmission, we again find ourselves in difficult times.

We will continue to work with our families to communicate the changes that we have implemented as necessary measures to keep us all safe. This is in addition to the very comprehensive risk assessment that we already have in place.

It is important that Parents and Carers are aware of our "Systems of Control" which are taken from the Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers. It highlights how these actions impacts on all our families and that it is everyone's responsibility to keep safe and reduce the risk of infection.

So just to remind our families, this is where they also must play an important role: -

WE MINIMISE CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNWELL BY ENSURING THAT THOSE WHO HAVE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SYMPTOMS OR WHO HAVE SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD WHO DOES OR WHO HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY NHS TEST AND TRACE TO SELF-ISOLATE, DO NOT ATTEND SETTINGS.

So, please do not send your child into preschool if they are feeling unwell, apart from the risk of infection to others it is the worst place to be for a sick child. We are also taking staff and the children's temperatures when entering preschool.



WHERE RECOMMENDED, THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS.

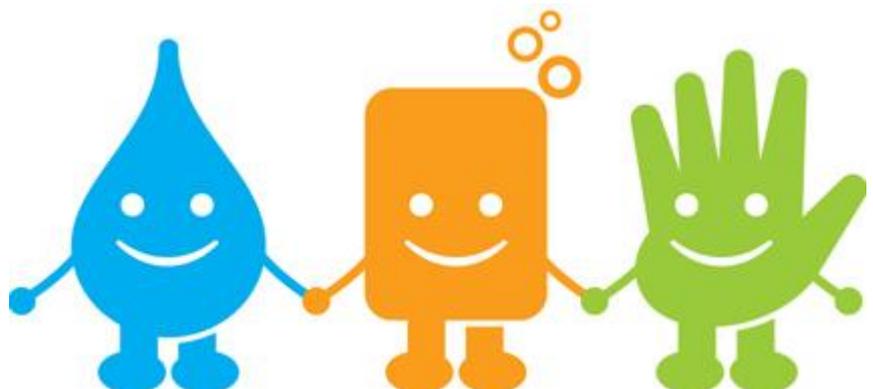
We have asked that Parent's wear a face mask when they come into the preschool grounds, sadly not everyone is doing this.

CLEAN HANDS THOROUGHLY AND MORE OFTEN THAN USUAL.

The children are getting better at this but still need supervising to do this properly. This is something that parents can do to support children's good hygiene practice and very much a part of our skills for life. Children often like to get handwashing over with as quickly as possible we sing Happy Birthday twice to ensure they take longer to wash hands and are thoroughly clean.

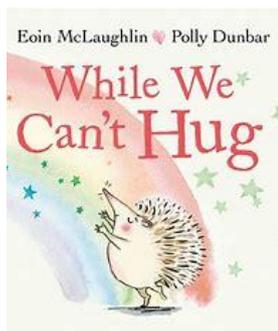
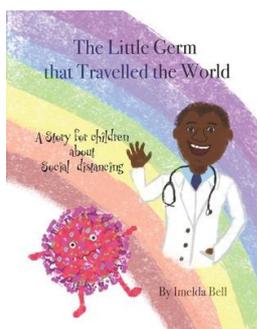
We are of course washing hands throughout the day, much more than normal and if your child has sensitive skin, we are encouraging you to send your own soap in. Children are washing their hands;

- When they arrive at the setting
- When they return from breaks
- Before and after eating
- After using the toilet
- After craft activities
- Returning from outdoor play
- Before they go home



ENSURE GOOD RESPIRATORY HYGIENE BY PROMOTING THE “CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT” APPROACH.

Children are beginning to understand how germs spread easily, so by catching a cough or a sneeze in a tissue, you are catching the germs. As germs can live for several hours on a tissue the tissue needs disposing of as soon as possible. Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch, so it is really important to clean hands as soon as you can.



We are also using “The Little Germ that Travelled the World”, by Imelda Bell and “While We Can’t Hug”, by Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar, to teach the children about social distancing. However, that is difficult to do in an Early Years Setting, but we are doing our best.

KEEP OCCUPIED SPACES WELL VENTILATED.

Windows and doors are opened early before the session begins to ensure the setting is well ventilated and a comfortable environment is maintained. Sometimes this means wearing extra layers to preschool, especially when it is really cold. We can always take off a layer to make sure the children are comfortable. It is good to see the majority of children are wearing hats and gloves as we are still enjoying outdoor play whatever the weather.

These are some of the ways that you can support us. If you are already doing this, that is great.

If not please consider how you may be able to support us at this difficult time to keep us all safe.

Starting School Applications

The deadline for applying for a school place is 15th January 2021, for all children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017. It is also a requirement that families complete the online Starting School Questionnaire, which is a separate form. To apply for a school place or for more information on applying the link is www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions and read the Starting School Leaflet and the application checklist.



Home Learning

During this lockdown period some of our families have understandably chosen to keep their children at home. If you would like links to Home Learning they are here.



Hungry Little Minds (<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>), features tips and practical activities that parents can do at home with children to support their early learning



BBC's Tiny Happy People (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>)



National Literacy Trust's Family Zone (<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>) also have great tips for parents.

There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not need to be formal. Having everyday conversations, make believe play and reading together all make a big difference to children's development.

Next week we will be celebrating Winnie the Pooh week and some fun activities to share with the children.



Sandy and the Team.