

Goudhurst Village Pre-school



NEWSLETTER

2ND SEPTEMBER 2020

We are very excited to welcome everyone back to pre-school this week (Thursday 3rd September), after a long absence for some families. For the first two weeks of term we will be concentrating on settling everyone in and wellbeing. We will do everything we can to settle children as quickly as possible and reassure parents, to make the transition back to setting as fluid as we can.

Our staff have been in setting for the past two days preparing for your return and are looking forward to opening the doors to all children. We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all staff for their professionalism over the last few months and to Jo, Mary and Kat for covering from 1st June. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a dedicated and hardworking team.

Staffing: Fiona Christie resigned her position at the pre-school to become a full time carer for her mum and we would like to thank her for her contribution to setting during her time with us and for her dedication to the children and wish her the very best for the future.

We are extremely fortunate to welcome Emily Mckay to setting four days a week who will be taking on Fiona's key worker children. Many children will already be familiar with Emily as she has worked at the pre-school covering absences on many occasions and is a real asset to our pre-school staff.

Parking: Please be aware that the new play area is still under construction which means that parents will be unable to use the small car park adjacent to the play area. Please park on back lane or walk if you possibly can, to alleviate congestion. This should be completed in the next two weeks and the parking reopened. Please **do not** park or block the driveway to the vicarage as it is still in daily use.

AGM – Tuesday 29th September @ 7.30pm in the Church Rooms – Everyone is welcome to come along and see our past achievements and hear about our plans and goals for the future.

If you have any queries/issues at all please make sure you speak to Jo Galloway in setting or on 01580 212777 / 07483 262753.

As well as Jo Galloway, our manager, your child's key worker and Zoe Bedford-Cooper, our business manager zoeggvp@gmail.com I am always available should you wish to discuss any aspect of your pre-school experience 07766 553728 / jaynegvp@gmail.com .

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RETURN TO PRE-SCHOOL:

Children will have a 'staggered' drop off at pre-school at 8.45am, 9.00am and 9.15am, (You will have been given your times by Jo already, but if you are still unsure please e-mail joannegvp@gmail.com to get confirmation). This is to avoid a bottleneck at these times at the pre-school doors and to promote social distancing.

Group A

Group B

Group C

Pre-school pick up will be staggered according to your child's start time.

All children will be managed in one bubble with six members of staff.

Jo will welcome children as they are dropped off at the main door and they will be supervised during washing their hands and then enter the hall. Parents will be asked to wait by the fencing of the play area and maintain social distancing. Parents will be called to the door one at a time and it is requested that only one parent/carer drops off. Once parents have dropped their child, they are asked not to hang around the pre-school building.

We remind parents that they:

- Must apply sunscreen before children arrive at setting and bring weather appropriate clothing. (coat/sunhat etc).
- Must bring a named water bottle for their child.
- Must drop off and collect children on time.
- Must ensure that children do not bring anything into pre-school except a wipeable lunch box, a coat and named water bottle – no bags will be allowed in the church rooms.
- Parents will not be allowed inside the church rooms.
- All parents will be asked to adhere to social distancing (two metre rule) while waiting to drop off and collect children.
- Any significant communication between staff and parents should take place via email or phone to aid drop off and pick up rota. Your child's Keyworker will say goodbye where it is possible.

GENERAL HYGIENE

The government advice is currently that sanitisers containing alcohol are effective against Covid19 but those without alcohol are not.

- Sanitiser with alcohol will be available for adults but not children
- Paper towels will be used for drying hands.

Children will use soap and water to wash hands:

- On arrival
- After break
- Before / after lunch
- After use of toilets
- After sneezing / coughing / blowing noses etc
- Before and after using equipment
- Whenever staff feel it is necessary.
- Children will be reminded frequently by all staff, to follow the catch it – bin it – kill it principle.

Should a child become unwell with COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff do not need to wear masks or gloves according to government guidance in pre-school in general; however, gloves / aprons and masks will be worn when dealing with children with possible COVID-19 symptoms if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained. Any children showing symptoms will immediately be isolated outside on the decking and parents will be called. A member of staff will remain with the child. Any area in which a child has been isolated or anything they have touched will be cleaned. If staff are concerned that a child is unwell, parents/carers will be called immediately. Please do not send your child in if they are showing any signs of symptoms associated with COVID-19.

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with Coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who are attending pre-school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where a child or staff member tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

Where a child or staff member tests positive, we will engage with the NHS Test and Trace through our local Kent Public Health England Protection and follow guideline and recommendations from them. If someone tests positive, they should follow the ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to pre-school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10 day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high

temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

If you have been on holiday recently, please adhere to the Government guidelines regarding quarantine times associated with individual countries.

CHURCH ROOMS PREPARATION

- All unnecessary clutter / items have been removed so that all surfaces including floors are easy to clean.
- All soft toys or equipment that are hard to clean / soft furnishings have been removed.
- All outdoor equipment – plastic skipping ropes / hula hoops / balls though etc will be cleaned at the end of the pre-school day with disinfectant.
- Only plastic wipeable chairs will be used by staff and children which will be cleaned daily.
- All toys that have been used during the pre-school day will be cleaned with disinfectant at the end of day and when needed, during the course of the day.
- VENTILATION IS VITAL – All doors and windows where possible will be open for ventilation.
- There will be lidded bins in pre-school for the disposal of tissues and any other waste and these will be emptied two or three times a day as necessary.

First Aid:

Any significant first aid will be carried out as usual.

PRE-SCHOOL RESOURCES

- Resources are rotated so that thorough cleaning is well organised and manageable. Resources are chosen daily to be accessible and cleaned daily. e.g. two sets of construction resources out on Monday – two different for Tuesday etc to allow time for cleaning as well as providing choice
- Reading books are sanitized. Books are returned and sanitized
- Outdoor activities are encouraged, weather permitting

SNACK TIME

- Snacks will be prepared by one member of staff, there will be no change in the type or availability of snacks from normal.
- Each child will bring their own water bottle.
- Each child will have their own plate and be served by a member of staff using tongs.
- Plates will be washed and cleaned as usual.

MENTAL HEALTH/WELLBEING

All children will have missed the routine of pre-school, seeing their friends, and being supported by staff. Where possible staff will:

- Encourage children to talk about their experiences of the past few months.
- Prepare activities to allow children to express their feelings, be mindful and have a greater sense of wellbeing.

EYFS, OBSERVATIONS & ASSESSMENT

- All observations will continue as normal where possible.

GENERAL NOTICES:

Grapes / Olives & Blueberries: Please remember to cut your grapes, olives and blueberries in four. This is the current Health and Safety guidelines. They can completely block a child's airway and this is the simplest way to take away this risk. Grapes should be cut length ways at a very minimum, but in four is recommended. The same applies to any rounded soft fruits / vegetables.

Nuts and sesame: Can we remind all parents that no nuts of any kind or sesame are allowed in your child's lunch in setting.

Sick Days: If your child is expected in setting and is ill and has to take a sick day then please ring the setting asap to let us know: 01580 212777 / 07483 262753.

Many thanks,

Jayne Russell & Jo Galloway
Goudhurst Village Pre-school
Registered Charity No. 1152404

Jayne Russell: Chair/Trustee: jaynegvp@gmail.com Tel: 07766 553728

Jo Galloway: Manager joannegvp@gmail.com Tel: 07483 262753

www.goudhurstvillagepreschool.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/GoudhurstVillagePreSchool>

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