

# Goudhurst Village Pre-school



## NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

We sincerely hope that the first week back in setting during this pandemic and the new phase of 2021 lockdown was as painless as possible and that you and your children settled into the new routine and term. I would like to extend a massive thanks to you as parents/carers for helping us with social distancing and the rules during this time and a huge thank you should be extended to our wonderful staff who during this period have showed amazing professionalism whilst balancing that with their own families and the worries we are all feeling.

We will continue to do all that we can to minimise any risk of transmission of Covid-19 and to keep you, your children, and our staff as safe as we can. We will follow the same protocols outlined below and ask you to support us in this at drop off and pick-up time.

Attendance at early years settings is not compulsory (this also applies to funded children) and we will respect any decision that you chose to make based on the current circumstances. PLEASE notify us immediately by return email to both [jaynegvp@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegvp@gmail.com) and [joannegvp@gmail.com](mailto:joannegvp@gmail.com) if you will NOT be sending your child(ren) into setting, if you have not already done so.

This week in setting we will be looking at the weather and the clothes we wear for different weather conditions. We will be making weather mobiles, rain gauges and windmills. We will also be making fake snow.

The number for the week is 1 and the colour is blue.

**URGENT THIS WEEK BY FRIDAY – Primary school applications:** Do you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017? Please make sure you apply for your Primary school place by logging onto [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) before the 15th January 2021

- Closing date for all applications – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- National offer day – 16th April 2021 – offers sent by email after 4pm
- Date by which places must be accepted or refused or should submit a waiting list form for schools they named but were not offered – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Reallocation of any vacant spaces – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Sickness:** If your child is showing symptoms of coronavirus please DO NOT send them into setting.

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If your child is showing any of the above symptoms you will need to seek medical advice and get them tested. However, if you can remember a time before Covid, if your child is unwell for any reason and you would usually have kept them home then please continue to do that. This is to protect the children and staff at the pre-school and other parents and their wider families. Your co-operation in this regard is very much

appreciated. 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.

**Payments:** Please could you wherever possible during this time make payments to the pre-school by direct transfer to our bank account. (Natwest: Account No. 30090377 S/C. 60-06-18). Whilst we understand that sometimes this is not possible it would be our preference so ask that you avoid paying by cash or cheque unless it is absolutely necessary.

**Closed Facebook Page:** We have set up a new Goudhurst Village Facebook site for parents/carers and staff. If you have not joined already, we will send out the link. It will be used to share photos and events.

**Do you want to become a Trustee??:** If you think you would like to support the pre-school by becoming a Trustee then please get in touch. If you would simply like to know more then please do not hesitate to email Jayne @ [jaynegvp@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegvp@gmail.com) or text/call on 07766 553728.

#### GENERAL NOTICES:

**Parking:** Please be mindful to other users when dropping off and picking up, so parents are not blocked in when they need to do other drop offs or get to work. Please do not park in the vicarage driveway as this is in daily use.

**Goudhurst Village Play Area:** We are very lucky in Goudhurst to have a brand new play area installed during the first lockdown, funded by our wonderful community and the Parish Council. In order for the play area to remain open the parish Council ask that you adhere to social distancing guidelines and are sensible so that our community remains safe. If the play area is too busy come back another time to enjoy the space and facility.

**Clothing:** Could children come into setting with named appropriate clothing for the weather. Wellies, coats and also bring a named water bottle.

**Clothing and toy donations:** If you have any good quality pre-school clothing or toys you would like to donate to the pre-school we would be happy to receive them. The pre-school has limited fundraising capacity at the moment due to covid restrictions and use any funds raised from donations to fund our pre-school garden.

**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.

#### GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS AT THE PRE-SCHOOL: All protocols remain the same as last term.

Children will have a 'staggered' drop off at pre-school at 8.45am, 9.00am and 9.15am. This is to avoid a bottleneck at these times at the pre-school doors and to promote social distancing.

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 bring weather appropriate clothing. (coat/warm clothes and appropriate footwear 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 wear a face covering and 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 10 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. eg. 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.

Many thanks,

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

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