

Durham County Council

Horden Nursery School
Cotsford Park
Horden
PETERLEE
Co. Durham
SR8 4TB



Head Teacher: Mrs N Parkinson
School No. 1035
Tel: 0191 5865415

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised, I wish to update you with the plans for our school following our Health and Safety visit during the half term holiday.

The number of Covid-19 cases across County Durham is thankfully reducing, which is very good news. Although this is the case, figures within our area remain very high in comparison, with Horden now having its own testing centre. Following the advice from our Health and Safety visit, and the very recent news of schools opening in the near future, we have made the decision to begin the wider opening of our nursery from Thursday 25th February. In response to this, we are inviting parents to choose whether or not they wish to send their children back to nursery.

For all we want to see children back to school enjoying nursery experiences, we appreciate that some families may feel it is safer for their children to stay at home, and we respect their decision. For parents who wish to keep their children at home, we can confirm that nursery places will be kept open and we will also continue to provide home learning.

Should you decide that you wish your child to return to school, we need to safeguard their health and well-being as well as that of staff, families and the wider school community by limiting social contact, as advised by the Government and Public Health.

For those returning to school we need to ensure that everyone adheres to the following:

- Parents must inform us if their child is returning and let us know which days they will be attending.
- Children must be brought to nursery and collected from nursery at the allocated time, not before or after, as this impacts on other groups.
- **Only 1 person to drop off and pick up.** This person must be in your childcare bubble. If there are other children in your family, please do not bring them to nursery when dropping off or picking up your child. Difficulties with this can be discussed with Natalie.
- Masks must be worn by adults, unless you are exempt.
- The correct entrances and exits should be used.
- Adults and children should sanitise their hands on entry to nursery.
- Everybody must be aware of social distancing.
- If your child is poorly, please do not bring them to nursery. In the interest of safety, we will send children home if they become unwell.
- Do not bring bags into nursery with your child, unless toilet training, or requiring frequent changes.
- Do not bring any toys or other items from home.
- If any of your family members have covid-19 symptoms, or have tested positive, you must inform us and follow isolation guidelines.
- Children and staff will continue to work within one of three bubbles. These bubbles are named the Sunflowers, Buttercups and Daisies. Please be aware that as all children can now return to nursery, there is a high possibility that groups of children and staff may need to isolate.

I understand these are worrying times for everyone and I am therefore asking for your support. Please take some time in making the decision as to whether you wish to send your child to school, then let us know so we can put the necessary arrangements in place.

Once again, I would like to thank parents for all of your support, patience, cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. We will continue to monitor and review the situation and will keep you all updated.

Natalie Parkinson

Head Teacher