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20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

## COVID-19 An Overview of our Return to Nursery Policy

### Our plans for June and over the summer

Pending final approval from the Government on 28<sup>th</sup> May, we are planning to re-open our nurseries to the wider community from 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Priority will be given to children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children, followed by Pre-schoolers and then children of all ages.

Numbers will initially be capped, in line with DfE guidelines, in order to create safe 'bubbles' for children.

Where demand for places is still low we may elect to keep certain settings closed or merged.

Over the summer we will be planning on a month-to-month basis and asking you to confirm your requirements for the forthcoming month. If you require sessions for your child it's important that you book in within the stated timescales so that we can plan for staffing, food and other resources. It's likewise important for you to let us know if you do not require care for that month. If we don't hear from you we will assume that you don't need childcare and we will plan for your child to be absent for the month. We are currently not planning to make a charge where no sessions are required, however sessions booked will be invoiced and must be paid for in the usual way.

Please note that a request for a booking will not necessarily mean we can facilitate your requirements. We are aiming to confirm June availability by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and will write to you again in mid-June to ask you to confirm your needs for July.

All our nurseries will be closed on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for staff training.

**Please note that all information given in this letter and associated policy is subject to change, at short notice, as official guidance is issued. We are using our best endeavours to deliver a safe and reliable service under the current circumstances.**

**In line with Government Guidance you must not attend nursery if you, your child or a member of your household has symptoms of Coronavirus. You must self-isolate in line with Government Guidelines.**

The information below is a summary of our policy: *409a - Covid 19 Return to Nursery Policy* which is available to be read or downloaded from our website [www.mamabear.co.uk](http://www.mamabear.co.uk)

### How we will keep children, parents and staff safe

#### *The latest scientific advice*

In making the decision to re-open we are being guided by official advice. The latest scientific advice from the government to Early Years Providers is that:

- there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus
- limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission
- schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put measures in place to reduce risks

The Government advises:

- limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children (such as smaller class sizes with children and staff spread out more)
- additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

In addition to the above we have been guided by the Department for Education, Local Authorities, OFSTED and other research.

***Our guiding principles as we plan to re-open are:***

- Safety of children and staff as well as wider families
- Children's emotional well-being
- Re-building of social networks
- Support through any bereavement that families may have experienced
- Beginning to assess learning and start the learning process again

It is recognised that children of nursery age are not able to effectively social distance and staff cannot practically implement social distancing with the children. Therefore the measures below have been put into place in accordance with Government and DfE guidance.

***Basic Principles to keep children safe:***

- Numbers of children and staff in the nursery will be kept low and consistent
- Children will be organised into 'bubbles'. In larger nurseries there may be multiple bubbles, in smaller settings children may all be in the same bubble
- Movement of staff between bubbles will be minimised
- Each bubble will remain within their own area of the nursery as much as is possible through the day, each bubble will also have access to their own area of the nursery outdoor space. Children will not mix between different areas
- Each Bubble will have its own toys and equipment. Resources will not be shared between bubbles
- The nursery, including fixed (eg outdoor) play equipment will be subject to an increased regime of cleaning and disinfecting
- All soft furnishings (mats, cushions, soft toys, etc will be removed; books and other resources will be restricted as per government guidance

- Tables will be cleaned before and after eating. Each table will be separately cleaned using disinfectant spray and disposable paper towels to prevent cross-contamination
- Children will not be permitted to bring in items from home, this includes bags and comforters. Nappies should be brought in their original plastic wrapping and these will be cleaned prior to storing at nursery
- We will not be providing daily feedback sheets or nursery to home books during this time.

### ***Handwashing and use of toilets***

- Children will use antibacterial gel on entering the building to sanitise their hands. They will wash their hands at regular intervals during the day, particularly when coming in from outside, before and after eating and using the toilets.
- Children will use toilets one at a time.
- Toilet areas will be cleaned frequently throughout the day in accordance with government guidance

### ***Safety on site – Important rules for Parents / Carers***

In addition to the measures set out above, the following will apply:

- Parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter the building – staff will collect your child from the nursery door and will bring them to you at the end of their session when you arrive to collect
- One parent / carer only should be present when dropping-off and collecting your child
- **When dropping-off and collecting your child the parent / carer must wear a face mask.** This can be of cloth or paper design
- Staff will also wear a face mask when receiving and returning your child – but staff are not required to otherwise wear face masks during the day
- Based on current guidance we will not permit children of any age to wear face masks in the nursery. If a child is brought to nursery wearing a face mask we will ask the parent / carer to remove it
- We ask you to follow social distancing when waiting to drop off or collect your child, in the car park or otherwise on site and not to form clusters at the entrance / walkways etc.
- Children who attend more than one early years setting – including a childminder may only attend one setting during this time so parents must choose which provider to use and ensure children are not attending more than one
- All communication with the Nursery Office / Management should be undertaken remotely - eg via email, EYLog or telephone
- Parents are asked not to linger before or after drop-off and collection but to leave the site promptly

### ***Children or staff displaying symptoms***

The guidance around this is clear. **YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO NURSERY IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOU, OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD, IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS.**

If a child (or adult) attending nursery appears to be unwell with either a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and / or loss of taste and / or smell the following process will be followed:

- A senior member of staff will be called for
- A thermometer will be used to check for a raised temperature

- If it confirmed that the child's temperature is raised, the cough is persistent, or the child claims to have loss of taste or smell then parents will be called to come and collect their child – all children must be collected within 1 hour after being asked to collect
- Children who attend nursery and are displaying symptoms will be eligible for testing from 1st June. Tests can only be booked by the parents / main carers. The child will be unable to return to the setting until a negative test has been received or the required isolation period of 14 days has elapsed
- If the test is negative, the child can return to nursery, however we require confirmation that the test result is negative
- If the test is positive the child, all children in the bubble and the members of staff working with them must self-isolate for 14 days
- Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate unless the child develops symptoms

If there are aspects which need further clarification, please do contact me by email, detailing your child's name and the nursery they attend. Contact details are below.

If, having read this, you have changed your mind about whether or not your child will be attending nursery in June, please can we ask that you email your nursery Manager immediately. We completely support the right of parents to choose what feels right for them and their family.

I hope you and your family are well. We all very much look forward to welcoming you back to nursery.

Kind Regards:

Kerry

Kerry Sturmeay

Operations Director

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