

# Pegwell Bay Nursery



## Covid-19 Policy

### **Statement**

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal. This policy and associated risk assessment is to limit the spread of the virus within the setting.

### **Who is at risk?**

All persons of the setting are at risk including: staff, children, parents /carers of the children attending, any other individuals involved in the day to day operation of the setting. Some groups of people are more vulnerable to the virus and these include the elderly, pregnant women and those with existing underlying health conditions.

### **What controls are required to limit the spread of the virus?**

The following controls will be in place at all times:

#### **Handwashing**

All staff and children will be required to wash their hands immediately upon entry to the setting and before leaving.

Hand washing facilities will be available at all times with soap and water in place.

Paper towels will be used to dry hands and these will be placed in a lidded bin.

The lidded bin will be emptied throughout the day or beforehand if required and disposed of in the relevant recycling bins.

Gel sanitisers will be available in any areas where there are no immediate handwashing facilities for example in the garden.

Staff and children will be reminded to wash their hands on a regular basis for a period of 20 seconds with soap and water and reminded of the importance of drying hands properly with the disposable towels. Children will be supervised at all times when hand washing to ensure that they do so properly.

All children will be reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue which will be disposed of immediately in a lidded bin. The contents of the lidded bin will be emptied throughout the day and disposed of in the relevant recycling bins or sooner as required and checked every hour. Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it to avoid touching the face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues are made available throughout the setting.

Staff to report any problems noticed.

### **Cleaning**

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, furniture and toys. The areas will be cleaned regularly using appropriate cleaning products and methods. Rigorous checks will be carried out by managers to ensure that the procedures are being fully adhered to at all times. Bedding will be washed after single use. The nursery is also cleaned every evening to include deep cleans twice weekly.

### **Social Distancing**

The recommended distance for safe distancing is 2metres however this is difficult to maintain in a setting such as a nursery. The following changes will be made to the running of each session:

Parents /carers will not be permitted to enter the setting. Their child/children must be dropped off at the door.

Parents will be asked to practice safe distancing of 2 metres whilst waiting to drop off their children. We appreciate that this will increase the time waiting to enter the nursery therefore please stagger getting out of your car to avoid long queues.

Some activities will be suspended which pose a high risk of contamination and reviewed according to guidance.

Outdoor play will be encouraged as much as possible.

Ventilation will also be encouraged with open windows and doors.

Any sleeping children will be based at least 1 metre apart.

### **Sickness**

Any person with a temperature above 37.8 will not be permitted to attend the nursery.

If anyone becomes unwell with a continuous new cough or a high temperature they will be isolated and sent home to follow the stay at home guidelines. If staff have a positive LFT test, they will be required to stay home for 5 days. They can return back to nursery after this. If they are still testing positive, a mask should be worn until they are negative.

Children and staff with any signs of illness should not attend nursery.

This policy was adopted on 8 March 2022 and will be reviewed on a weekly