1st September 2020

t: 020 8894 2590

e: manager@littlestars-daynursery.com

Dear Parents and Carers.

At Little Stars Day Nursery, we have taken several extra precautions to keep children safe during the coronavirus pandemic – and we are pleased to say we have gone above and beyond the guidelines laid down by the Government with doing what's best for the nursery.

We follow all the correct safety measures to keep children healthy and happy. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of all our staff, children, and parents at all time so, we have also taken advice from an infection control specialist.

I have provided to all staff and parents a listening ear, while allaying fears and ensuring they are coping at this challenging time. Staff feel a lot more relaxed within the nursery environment compared to the early days of the pandemic, especially since we opened mid-June and have supported families who returned to us.

Staff were very anxious at first about what was happening, but I have noticed the fear factor has now settled. It does not mean they are complacent, far from it – it just means they have adapted to the situation and are confident they are doing everything they possibly can to look after children in their care.

Little Stars, which provides high quality childcare for children from 6 months to 5 years old, is cleaned daily by a cleaning company and carpets removed, plus there has been an investment in personal protective equipment. Toys are constantly cleaned and sterilised plus soft toys, dressing up and bedding are washed daily. We still restrict water, sand and playdough activities due to hygiene factors.

The feedback from parents has been extremely positive and supportive, and we wanted to share our approach to 'working safely and smart' so that other parents, who may be worried about their own children returning to nursery, can see that life can get back to normal, even if it is a 'new normal'.

I have a **New Plan from September 2nd for all children**, especially for thoe who are joining us as new families or retuning after Marchs lockdown. Please have a read to comply with the safety and operations of the nursery. Without everyone working together we will not be able to open safely to a lot more parents.

## Reena Pharma

**Nursery Manager** 



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## **Execuation of New Plan from September 2nd Wednesday: IMPORTANT**

- Parents will not be allowed in the building unless you are invited for settling in sessions.
- Nursery is open usual times 8 to 6pm daily but reduced sessions for all new parents and for parents who are still concerned we are happy to keep sessions shorter for you.
- Covid-19 is still present so we need to all work together to be successful and healthy.
- Parents entering the building will have to wear masks and sanitise their hands.
- Nursery sessions will be reduced to stagger all **new parents** for the whole of September.
- We are doing things differently for the first term, from September to December we have reduced sessions, hours and alot more cleaning than usual.
- Please all help and support as we cannot allow new parents all inside the nursery for settling, hence why we are stretching start dates, times and reduced sessions. This is for everyones protection and safety. Please be patient with us.
- Social distancing for all parents and staff is required at least a metre away if not 2 metres.
- We will keep children in their age groups as much as possible.
- We will be providing breakfast, lunch, tea and snacks, as well as milk and water at the nursery. But if children have their own water bottles its fine or we can still provide them
- We're trialing for the first month of September how our kitchen works and will update any changes we may think.
- Children who bring packed lunches to be provided with healthy foods for the length of the session they attend.
- All staff and children will be washing their hands upon entering the setting, regularly throughout the day, before and after eating.
- Do not send your child to nursery if:
  - they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
  - someone in your household is showing symptoms or is Positive with Covid-19
  - self-isolate for 14 days if told by NHS or by the nursery
  - ❖ if children have any coughs, colds, flu symptoms or feeling unwell we will not allow them to nursery for minimum of 5 days.
  - NO children allowed to attend who have taken Calpol before attending nursery
  - If your child has a fever/temperture you need to keep them home for 5 days minimum.
  - ❖ Any child with vomiting and diarrhea will not be allowed to come for 72 hrs (3 days) minimum.



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- We have to take extra care of ourseleves and everybody around us.
- Well being and safety is 100% are priority, we will refuse entry or call you to collect your child if they show any signs of being ill.
- Only one parent/carer to drop off and pick up at the patio door.
- We have markings outside the nursery for you to follow and wait. It will take time for all drop offs and pick ups. So please be patient as we have upto 50 families daily.
- Public Health England's guidance is that routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.
- Please DO NOT bring in toys from home, we will not allow them in.
- We will be keeping doors and windows open inside the nursery as far as possible to ensure ventilation and use the outdoor garden as much as possible.
- We will limit all external visitors to the setting and ensure they only come into the building when strictly necessary, for example if providing an essential service or essential support for a child's health and wellbeing.
- We will encourage and ensure handwashing with hand and soap is more frequent for 20 seconds and dried thoroughly.
- Children will be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- We will encourage children to use a tissue, or elbow to cough and sneeze.
- We will ensure that staff are available to for children who have difficulty cleaning hands independently.
- We will encourage all children through daily activities to learn and practice good habits with songs, games and repetition.
- We will ensure we empty out the bins through the day more regularly.
- There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day at nursery for all.
- Indoor shoes for all children are required.
- Any shared materials and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently through the day.

If you need to speak to me please email me or call me to help you further. Please read our notices, letters and website for any updates. We are taking precautions and putting your health and safety first.

Covid-19 is a part of life and we have to adapt and prevent a second wave.

Kind regards,

## Reena Pharma

Nursery Manager