

Meppershall Pre-School

Watch Them Grow



Back to Pre-School after Covid-19 Closure Parents Guide

Phase 2 - Children returning from Monday 8th June*

*Maximum 12 children allocated a space, and prioritised according to criteria set out in our Covid-19 admissions policy.

Phase 3 – Wider Opening for larger groups of children*

*date to be confirmed pending government advice

Welcome Back...

We hope you and your families are well. Following government guidance, the Pre-school is reopening on 8th June.

We are limiting our total number of children being offered a place to 12 initially, prioritising vulnerable children, critical worker children, 3&4 year olds who will be starting school in September and then other funded children, before offering places to our 2 year old, unfunded children.

We need to be honest with you and state categorically that we are unable to socially distance children of this age. All the measures being put in place are to try to ensure that the children and staff are safe but we cannot guarantee that your child will not come into contact with Covid-19/germs at pre-school.

The reason childhood illnesses spread rapidly is because children are unable to stay away from each other. There are still many unknowns in relation to this pandemic, and I am not sure that we will have answers anytime soon so we can only offer a service and allow you to make your own decision on what you do with your child for your individual circumstances. We do not think we can make a decision on your behalf when it comes to something as precious as your children.

We currently have staff willing to be at work regardless of the risks to them which puts us in position to re-open but with restrictions in place. We therefore request you to carefully read, understand and adhere to this guidance. Despite every effort on our behalf to ensure that our children and staff are safe, every child in the setting will be admitted with the understanding that parents have understood the risks that are involved and they are aware and agree to adhere to our safety guidelines.

Should we feel that parents are not adhering to the guidelines or proving to come across difficult and challenging then under the current circumstances we will have to ask them to take their children away until situations change. Patience, tolerance and flexibility is key for the safety of everyone in these difficult circumstances.

Our Safety Measures

1

Drop off and Collection

- Please note only 1 parent / carer will be allowed to drop off and pick up and we recommend that this remains the same person if at all possible.
- Staff will open the green gate to rear of play area so please wait here, where you must sanitise your child's hands before arrival.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the building at any time so please speak to your child about this before arriving at pre school so they know what to expect. Staff will of course help settle children, and will text you to let you know they are ok. If children really struggle with this, you may be asked to collect them as we will not leave them distressed.
- On collection your child will be released by staff via the red gate from play area.

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Parents Waiting

- Social distancing must be adhered to whilst waiting to drop off or collect your child.
- Please hold your child's hand whilst you wait until you are permitted to enter, via the green gate.
- One parent at a time will be permitted to enter the playground to drop off or collect at any one time, please wait for staff to let you in, and please allow extra time for this.
- Parents / children will not be permitted to gather outside the pre school.
- When waiting to collect your child, please wait at 2m intervals outside of the red gate to front of play area (usual exit gate).

Our Safety Measures

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Cleaning

- A further deep clean will be carried out by staff before children return on June 8th.
- Thereafter we will be undertaking 'extra' regular cleaning as is necessary to reduce the spread of germs and infection alongside additional cleaning checks / procedures throughout the day.
- Resources will be limited to avoid the spread of germs and infection. Soft toys, rugs, cushions and dressing up clothes have been removed, as have those with small parts to support this.
- We will be closed on a Friday afternoon, to ensure staff can 'deep clean' further on a weekly basis.

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Transport

- Parents and staff are requested to avoid using public transport where possible, and not to 'car share' with anyone from a different household.
- If your only option is to use public transport, or to car share, we would ask that you please wear face coverings and wash / sanitise hands before bringing or collecting your child from pre school and continue to maintain social distancing on arrival at pre school.



Our Safety Measures

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Group Times & Events

- We will not be offering 'group' story or singing sessions or lift off to language groups until further guidance is received on this, as we do not want to 'encourage' children to group together.
- This term is when we would usually have our Sports day and leavers show, as well as a Fathers day event. However, under current circumstances I am sure you will understand that regrettably these will not be going ahead this year. We will aim to arrange something for our school leavers once we are able to do so, as we would like to say a proper goodbye to them!



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Snack & Lunch Times

- Parents are required to send in a small healthy snack for their child, for each morning session they attend. **WE WILL NOT BE PROVIDING SNACK FOODS AT THIS TIME.** Children will be given an opportunity to eat this snack, with supervision either indoors or out. The snack must be fruit (pre chopped), cracker, cheese etc.. NO Sweets /cakes etc..
- All fruit in lunchboxes must also be pre-chopped.
- Snacks and lunches must be provided in named, plastic, wipeable containers. No fabric lunch boxes will be allowed.
- The lunch box trolley will be available outside for you to put boxes onto on arrival.



Our Safety Measures

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Groupings of children & sessions

- We will have a maximum of 12 children allocated a space at pre school during (phase 2) from 8th June, so children will have some level of contact with a maximum of 11 others, although activities will be arranged inside and out and children will naturally break into small groups, individuals, pairs etc.. And at lunch / snack times, children will be spaced further out than usual.
- A maximum of 4 staff members will be working at each session, and 3 staff currently remaining furloughed, again to minimise contact with others and have only consistent contact.
- With numbers of staff and children, small groups / individual support will be managed well.

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Handwashing



- We will ensure all staff and children wash their hands for at least 20 seconds throughout the day, particularly when;
 - Coughing and sneezing
 - Before and after handling or eating food
 - After going to the toilet
- Hand sanitiser will also be available on arrival at pre school for all parents and children to use and in communal areas for all staff.
- Staff will carry individual bottles of hand sanitiser in their 'bum bags' safely.
- Children will be supported to wash their hands before leaving the building.

Our Safety Measures

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Promoting Good Hygiene

- A good standard of hygiene will be maintained by all staff at pre school throughout each day, and good hygiene practices will also be shared with children.
- Children will be encourage to cough or sneeze into the crook of their elbow or in a tissue and to 'catch it, bin it, kill it', followed by thorough hand washing. Tissues will be disposed of safely.



Wash your hands

Use a tissue for coughs

Avoid touching your face

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff and children will not be expected to wear PPE at all times within the setting.
- Staff will continue to wear gloves and aprons as usual when changing children's nappies or clothing soiled from toileting accidents. They may choose to wear fabric face coverings in addition to gloves and aprons.
- Face coverings will also be worn when having to prepare food (although this should be eliminated as parents supply and prepare snacks for their children)
- Pre School will ensure there are a supply of gloves, aprons and clinical face masks will also be available to be worn by a member of staff if a child in the setting displays symptoms, and whilst they are awaiting collection.

Our Safety Measures

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Children that become unwell

If you or anybody in your family becomes unwell with a continuous cough, temperature or loss of taste and smell, then the whole family will need to isolate for 14 days in line with government guidance and you must all be tested.

- If any child becomes unwell with the above symptoms a parent will be contacted to collect them within 1 hour and asap.
- Whilst the child is awaiting collection, they will be placed in isolation with a member of staff (who will wear PPE) away from others until they are picked up. It is vital we are able to get in touch with parents immediately; therefore please ensure we have your most up to date contact details and if you will not be contactable a number of someone who would be available at short notice.

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Stay at home

- Any children living with a person who is at increased risk of severe illness, or an extremely vulnerable person who is shielding from coronavirus, should stringently follow the guidance on social distancing and minimise contact outside the home, such children are advised not to attend the setting.
- Children who may have any mild asthma, even those who may not have had symptoms for a long time, will be asked to complete a risk assessment with staff to ensure risks of illness are minimised. If symptoms worsen, we may ask for the child to be kept at home.

Our Safety Measures

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Parent and Staff communication

Unfortunately face to face parent / staff communication will be minimal, so please bear with us.

- If you / we need to share information about your child it will be done by a phone or video call, at a mutually convenient time.
- Please text us on 07816 357159 if you need to contact us during a session.

Visitors

- No non essential visitors will be permitted into the Pre School room, lobby or play area until further notice.
- All meetings with individuals regarding children in our care will be held via telephone or video call.

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Clothing

- Hygiene must be maintained and staff and children must arrive in clean clothing daily and a full set of spare clothes must be available for changing into. (Preferably more than 1 set, particularly if your child is likely to have toileting accidents but they may get wet from water play etc..)
- Children's soiled clothing will be double bagged and labelled with what soiled the clothing, date and time.

Buggies & Ride Ons

- Buggies and ride ons will not be permitted to be left at pre school until further notice. Parents arriving with children in buggies will need to take them home after dropping their child off.

Our Safety Measures

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Toys

Children will not be allowed to bring in toys from home.

- If your child has a comfort toy and they will not settle without it, we will allow it until they settle but please note if a 'soft' toy, must be washed & sanitised before it comes into the setting.
- We will not be loaning books etc to take home until further notice.

Bags

- A clearly labelled bag must be provided for your child, which must be left at pre school.
- Please ensure you check contents and ensure they have enough changes of clothes. If clothes are changed, dirty clothes will be returned to you so you know they need replacing.

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Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june?utm_source=ec0b2dee-f4bc-4252-9f73-79625e1e4b19&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST GET TESTED IF YOU / YOUR CHILD HAVE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS