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23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Summer term 2021!

It has been wonderful to welcome back our existing children as well as welcome our new children into our Centre. We are amazed how well the children have settled down and are adjusting to the protective measures that we had put in place. This is largely due to the amazing support from all the staff, I really do appreciate everything they do for the children. Their hard work in planning behind the scenes has paid off. It is so wonderful to have the centre buzzing with so many children, with everyone adhering to the measures implemented. Staff are ensuring that the experiences that the children have are as pleasurable and pleasant as is possible in the current situation.

Thank you to the parents/ carers for dropping off and picking up their child to the Centre at the allocated entrances, wearing their face masks and for understanding the need to keep to 2 metres social distancing. I am really grateful for your patience in waiting in the line while waiting to drop off or pick up your child. Please continue to ensure that only one adult from the household comes to the centre. We would really appreciate you arriving punctually as it is very challenging for the staff to leave the classroom to collect late arrivals. Under no circumstances should your child be sent into the car park by themselves or allowed to walk to the building by themselves. Please ensure that you hand over your child to the member of staff.

We operate a 'free flow' in the centre. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) describes a free flow as a style of play where children have the choice to move indoors and outdoors freely within their learning environment. It focusses on child-led learning, as they are able to direct their own attention and interests, freely moving where they would like. It is a way of giving the children more independence and freedom of movement as part of their learning activities. Free flow play is about encouraging children to utilise different spaces to find the learning style which suits them best. Children are given the space to experiment, innovate and assess the properties of the objects around

them. By doing this, it's hoped that the children will find areas of interest from which to build learning. Please ensure that you do not send your child to the centre in their best clothes as they do get messy. Also as the children freely move between indoor and outdoor, it is not possible for the children to be changing their footwear. All children's spare clothes, bags and lunch boxes must be clearly labelled. If you are leaving a buggy or scooter in the buggy shed, please make sure it is folded and neatly stacked.

Anyone across England is now able, and strongly encouraged, to access free, regular rapid COVID-19 testing even if they have already been vaccinated. Alongside the roll out of the vaccine, regular testing is an essential part of reducing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you have been vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to take the test twice a week. These Lateral Flow Device Test are for people with NO symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must book for a PCR test. You can pick up the tests from the NHS sites, find your nearest pick up point here: [Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-testing/)

We are continuing to implement the appropriate recommended measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 . These measures make up a 'system of controls', building on the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. We are keeping the protective measures under review, in line with the government guidance, guidance set out by Public Health and the latest scientific advice and update our risk assessments accordingly.

The current protective measures will continue to remain in the Centre to ensure that we minimise the transmission of COVID. For the most updated Risk Assessment please click here [Norcot Early Years Centre - Risk Assessment](#)

Thank you for your co-operation during this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Katarina Bingham

Head of centre