



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our January newsletter

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and were able to celebrate in the usual way. I am confident that 2022 will be a more positive year. A warm welcome to all our new children and families.

We continue to follow the advice and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Government and have adapted our practice accordingly. However, there are still likely to be regular updates on the COVID situation over the coming days and weeks and I will keep you informed if any changes are made as soon as we have been briefed by the DfE.

Lateral flow tests

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result were temporarily suspended on Tuesday 11th January. This means that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Unfortunately, children presenting with new COVID-19 symptoms will still require a PCR test rather than a lateral flow device (LFD) test.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17th January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. We do ask that the two negative LFD test results are emailed to the Day Nursery prior to a child's return.

PLEASE follow the latest advice regarding self-isolation periods. Whilst it isn't a requirement for children to isolate if one or more of their family test positive for COVID, we hope that you would consider keeping them at home for the isolation period as a precaution and to help protect the Nursery community, especially considering our vulnerable staff and children.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER





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Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Please make the Day Nursery aware straight away if someone in your child's household tests positive for COVID-19 and forward us their PCR results.

NHS ADVICE

The main symptoms for COVID are:

- a. a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- b. a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- c. a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

- a. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- b. Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result - only leave your home to have a test.

That latest guidance can be found here:

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





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Staffing update

I am pleased to let you know that Tina is expecting her third boy who is due to arrive in June. Giovanna has now left for her maternity leave, whilst she awaits the arrival of her baby girl. Kelly, who is also expecting a baby girl, has also started her maternity leave. We wish them all the very best and cannot wait to meet their new children.

I am delighted to let you know of some staff developments which are aimed to support you in all you do. We have appointed Mary to the position of Deputy Manager to work alongside Katie moving forward. Mary has amazing skills in juggling the rotas and staffing and in recent months has also taken on some of Katie's workload too.

In addition to this we have appointed Karen Lester to the position of Deputy Manager. She is a hugely experienced Nursery Practitioner and more recently has been working for the Local Authority, managing Educational Health Care Plans for children. Karen has now started and is spending the first few weeks in each of the rooms getting to know the children and staff as well as yourselves.

Katie has had a very difficult time of lately with her health but now has an operation booked for the end of the month. It has been lovely to have Katie back on a part time basis but we wish her well. We hope to support her in returning to the Nursery, ensuring she doesn't take on too much too soon. Having three Deputy Managers will ensure that children, staff and parents are well supported.

I am also delighted that we have recently recruited some excellent new staff to join our already superb team. They include Chloe who has joined us as the preschool room lead, Sammy who will be joining the Bear Cubs team full time, Bethany who will be joining the Wise Bears team on a Thursday and Friday, Jack who will work across all rooms on a full-time basis and Maddy who has joined the Fuzzy Bear team on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. We are still looking to recruit one more full-time person for the under 2's team if you know of any talented staff then do let me know.

Please see the teams below;

Bear cubs - Amelia, Naomi, Tina, Sammy,

Cuddly Bears - Ellie, Shannon, Jess, Ella

Fuzzy Bears room - Emily, Michelle, Julie-Ann, Maddy

Teddy Bears - Jasmine, Emily, Emma, Abbie, Ellie

Wise Bears - Chloe, Trudy, Isobel, Bethany

Flexi - Pat, Jessica, Jack

Thank you all once again for your incredible patience and support as we continue to face the ever-changing challenges together.

*Best Wishes
Mollie and the team...*



Mary
and
Karen



Maddy



Jack and
Sammy



Chloe

