

**Measures to keep everyone safe: Frequently asked questions**

What will Gants Hill Playgroup be doing to protect all children, parents and families?

Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and again in the afternoon for all children and staff. Anyone with a temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius will be asked to stay away from the nursery.

Parents/carers are asked to drop and collect from a designated area only. Unfortunately, they will not be able to enter the building. Visitors will only be allowed entry to complete critical tasks. First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitizer ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.

Children and staff will wash their hands during every transition- upon arrival at school, before and after playtime, before and after snack/ lunch, before they go home, when they sneeze or cough and at any other time where a particular activity or incident necessitates it. Children’s hand washing will be supervised and organised by an adult. Children will be taught about the importance of hand washing and good respiratory hygiene on a daily basis in a child friendly and sensitive way. We will be promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach. There are be a good supply of tissues and covered bins throughout the setting.

An enhanced cleaning schedule, has been implemented, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.

We ask that parents/carers physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and limit drop off and collection to one parent/carer per household.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the nursery, will you tell us?

If there is a confirmed case within or connected to our setting, of a staff member or family then we will advise you by letter, whilst maintaining the confidentiality of all involved.

If your child shows signs of a heavy cold then please keep them at home. Equally, if your child or anyone in your home, is displaying Covid-19 symptoms, please keep your child at home and isolate for 14 days. Whilst the virus is not presenting as particularly dangerous to children it remains so for adults and therefore, all staff at our setting.

If you or any of your family has been abroad in recent weeks, you **must** inform the setting.

How will social distancing be respected Gants Hill Playgroup?

We ask all families to respect social distancing when arriving at nursery for drop off and collection, this is of particular importance when awaiting temperature taking.

Within the nursery, social distancing is hard with children. We will support this by using the garden as much as possible and spending time in key groups. Doors will be propped open and all windows will remain open, for maximum ventilation, so please provide your child with a cardigan, coat and appropriate footwear as the hall might feel colder, depending on the weather. Please label all your child’s clothes and shoes, as this prevents confusion and upset.

Will you comfort my child if they are upset?

Always! If a child becomes upset at any time with us, we will comfort them, be this with a cuddle or a story for example. No child will be left crying because of social distancing. If a child becomes distressed and does not settle, we will call their parents/carer. Each child’s ‘settling in’ in period will be individual to meet each child’s needs.

Can my child have their comforter?

If your child uses a dummy please supply at least two so a spare one can be kept on hand in a Milton style solution. The use of dummy straps is not permitted as these enable the dummy to be in contact with surfaces.

If your child has a blanket or soft toy, please supply these and have them as clean as possible. Comforters will be available to children when they need them, for example when they are upset, tired, or going for their nap. At other times comforters will be in the child’s bag or box to prevent other children accessing these. Please refrain from bringing in other favoured toys, we have plenty of exciting toys at our setting.

Will staff be wearing face masks or coverings?

Staff within the setting, with the children, will not wear face masks (consistent with government guidance). This will ensure a more familiar environment for the children who can be reassured by familiar faces and friendly smiles, which will be very much needed, especially at the start of a new term.

PPE is only needed in a small number of cases: - Staff who are taking temperatures will wear a medical grade face mask, which will be changed for each session of temperature taking – When changing nappies or if a child, becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home, then gloves, an apron and a face mask will be worn by the supervising adult. - If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then face shields will also be worn. - When an individual risk assessment says that the wearing of PPE is an appropriate control measure. - Staff will wear a face mask at drop off and collection times or when meeting the wider school community

Will my child be provided with a mid-morning snack?

Your child will be given a mid-morning snack. Please provide your child with a water bottle, clearly labelled with your child’s name, as there will be no drink stations at the setting. If your child is staying for lunch, please put your child’s lunch in a plastic bag which has been clearly labelled. The bag, along with the water bottle will be thrown away at the end of the session. If your child is in nappies, please provide your child with nappies (no ‘pull-ups’ please), wipes, nappy bags and a change of clothes, in a bag which is clearly labelled. The bag will remain at the nursery and we will request that you top it up each week. If your child is in a buggy, you will need to take it home as unfortunately, they can no longer be left at the setting. All these actions are in place to lessen cross contamination and we thank you for your co-operation.

**Track and Trace Redbridge**

Anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or within 2 metres of for more than 15 minutes. The service will help identify, contain, and control Coronavirus, reduce the spread of the virus, and save lives. People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to stop unknowingly spreading the virus. If those in isolation develop symptoms, they can book a test at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/dTVKC5RqYFZpoQoszT0R2?domain=track.vuelio.uk.com) or by calling 119. If they test positive, they must continue to stay at home for seven days or until their symptoms have passed. If they test negative, they must complete the 14-day isolation period. Members of their household will not have to stay at home unless the person identified becomes symptomatic. At that point, they must also self-isolate for 14 days to avoid unknowingly spreading the virus. People who are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service will be given clear information explaining what they must do and how they can access local support if needed. Guidance is also available online at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_Nb4C6BrZur0EAEc6p7ru?domain=track.vuelio.uk.com)

For further information on NHS Track & Trace, please visit: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/YsTDC7pv4hAVvxvFB9INM?domain=track.vuelio.uk.com)

We hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 2nd September. We are looking forward to welcoming your child[ren] and we hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Nihan and Dawn