



Oak Field, The Wyches, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3HG

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Thursday 28th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly to the survey we sent out around the possible re-opening of pre-school from 1st June. We understand that the decision over whether your child will return to pre-school has been an incredibly difficult one to make and we appreciate all your responses to our questions.

The Prime Minister has confirmed today that Early Years settings will be able to re-open as of 1st June, as the Government's five tests have been met. However, in order for pre-school to be ready to welcome children back, the earliest we expect to be able to open is **Monday 8th June**. So far, we have had a low uptake in the number of families intending to start back at the beginning of June and we understand that parents want to wait and see how things develop over the coming weeks. In light of today's announcement, if your views have changed since you completed the questionnaire and you would like your child to return from the 8th June, please email us by 3pm on Monday 1st June to let us know, so we can prepare.

It is important that families understand that it will not be 'business as usual' once we are allowed to open to more children. We need to strike a balance between making the pre-school as safe as possible for children and staff, in line with Government guidance, but also creating an environment that doesn't appear 'alien' to the children. The well-being and safety of the children will always be our foremost priority.

In line with Government and DfE guidance, we have completed a thorough risk assessment of our setting so that when we do open, we can do so in a way that will substantially reduce the risk of the virus being transmitted.

Some of the measures that we will be putting in place can be summarised as follows:

- Children or staff who are unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus, or who have someone in their household who shows symptoms, may not attend pre-school for 14 days. Please notify pre-school immediately.
- When you arrive at the start of the session, your child's temperature will be taken. If it is showing above 37.8 degrees, your child will not be allowed to enter pre-school. **You should go straight home.**
- Please follow Government guidance on self- isolating and testing. www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing.
- Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and the removal of unnecessary and hard-to-clean objects and toys.
- For the remainder of the Summer term, snack will **not** be provided. We ask that you bring in a healthy snack for your child. This could be fruit or vegetables (fresh or dried), crackers, breadsticks. Please put this into a sealed container that is clearly labelled.
- **No** toys from home will be allowed in the setting.
- **No** parents will be able to enter the building. We will ask you to say goodbye at the front of the building and your child will be taken in by a member of staff.

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- Lunch boxes and water bottles must be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Please bring a spare change of clothing for your child in a clearly labelled bag. We also ask that you bring a change of shoes or slippers that can be worn inside and can remain at pre-school.
- Markers will be placed on the ground outside the building to help our families stay 2 metres apart.

In addition to this, we will be extensively cleaning the setting at the end of each day. Toys and books will be on rotation and there will be no sand, water or messy play available. Please also note that, for the remainder of the Summer term, we will no longer be running our Outdoor Learning Sessions on a Monday morning. We will, however, try to make sure that the children spend as much time outside as possible enjoying the fresh air and making the most of our well-equipped outdoor area.

As we welcome back more children towards the end of term, it may become necessary to amend our session times, implement staggered drop off and collection slots, as well as placing children and staff into small group 'bubbles'. These measures will limit the number of children we can have in setting per session. Session bookings will be discussed individually with each family, but priority will be given to children in the following order:

- Children of key workers
- Children with Education, Health and Care Plans
- Funded 2s
- Children due to transition to primary school - our Rising 5's
- 2-3 year olds

We will of course keep you updated of any changes we feel are needed to ensure that the children and staff remain as safe as possible.

We would like to make it clear that these control measures do not include 2 metre social distancing as 'early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff' (DfE, 12th May 2020). We will instead focus on learning about personal space. However, the well-being of the children is the most important thing and if they need a cuddle because they are hurt or upset, or just want to sit closely with an adult and read a story, then this will of course happen.

We will be sending out a short survey to you on a weekly basis. These will help us to get a better understanding of what our families need and ensure that we do our best to meet those needs. The survey will be sent out on a Wednesday and we ask that you please send us your responses by 9am on a Friday to allow us time to plan for the following week.

Thank you for your help, support and understanding. If you have any questions, specific concerns or just want to talk things over, please do telephone or email us. You are all doing an amazing job right now in these uncertain times. Please keep adding your pictures, photos and news to Tapestry - the staff enjoy seeing them so much.

We will be in touch next week to confirm the date for the pre-school re-opening.

Best wishes and stay safe.



Kate Hilton
Chairperson

For and on behalf of the staff and management committee of Little Thetford Acorns Pre-school