

COVID Response and Information

This page contains information about how Ladybirds Nursery is responding to the COVID 19 Pandemic. It will be regularly updated as Government and Local Authority guidance is released.

Ladybirds Nursery re-opened to all children on 1st June 2020 after the first national lockdown. Very small bubbles were organised within each room. Every room has its own entrance, and no parent is allowed into the nursery. All children and staff must wash hands on entry to the setting and frequently across the day. Extra hand wash basins and hand sanitiser stations have been installed. Toys are sanitised daily, and all soft toys have been removed. From September 2020 room bubbles are in operation.

Visits from prospective parents cannot operate whilst the nursery is in operation, but appointment times can be booked for specific Saturday mornings. Please contact us to book a slot.

Positive Covid Case 30/6/21

There has been a positive case of Covid 19 from a child in the Kingfisher room. However, as they were already self-isolating and not at nursery for the preceding 5 days before testing positive there is no impact at Ladybirds Nursery. This has been confirmed by Public Health Hertfordshire.

You may be aware there are multiple clusters of cases in local primary and secondary schools. If anyone in your household shows symptoms it is vital they get a PCR test and the whole family self isolates. Once the result is back, if it is negative your child can return to nursery (please send us a screen shot of the result), if it is positive, please let us know immediately. Obviously, you must then self-isolate for 10 days. If in this period another member of the household test positive, the 10 days restarts.

Below is the most recent advice from Herts County Council. They are advising children under 11 not to do lateral flow tests because the swabs supplied in the kits are intended for older children or adults, paediatric swabs are not supplied in the lateral flow device test kits, so introducing an adult swab the nasal cavity of a young child such as under 5 could hurt or cause injury.

What to do if a child under 11 has symptoms of COVID 19

- Keep the child at home and ring 111 for advice, arrange for a PCR at a test centre drive through or book online: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- Don't take your child into a public place, walk in centre or health centre
- Self-isolate the family until the test result is available
- Don't send siblings to the setting or school at this stage, until the PCR is back
- If you're really concerned about a young child, contact 999 or attend an A&E department wearing the appropriate face covering.

The new variant is 50% more contagious so please do NOT bring your child to nursery if they are at all unwell.

Further relaxation of bubbles 18/6/2021

The nursery now operates as one bubble. This means children can visit the next room before they move up permanently. Staff can move from room to room providing that they thoroughly wash their hands before and after. Pre school children can be visited by a teacher from the school they will soon move on to provided that these happen in the garden or park.

Each room maintains its own door for entry/exit so there is no change for parents dropping off or collecting. Frequent handwashing still remains a priority as does enhanced daily cleaning throughout the nursery. Parents and staff still wear face coverings at drop off and pick up.

Arrangements for end of term events have been modified. The children will enjoy a 'fun day' with races and bouncy castles but no parents. The Pre school graduation will occur outside with parents invited (socially distanced and a maximum of 30 in one group). Face to face consultations have been replaced with telephone calls.

Ad hoc staff complete a lateral flow test before their first shift and then test twice weekly in line with the rest of the staff. As parents and staff inform us of their holiday plans we are asking where they are going and advising of quarantine requirements if applicable. This also applies to people arriving from overseas and self-isolating with nursery families.

Visits by external professionals 12/5/21

External professionals Specialists, therapists, clinicians, and other support staff for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are welcomed into Ladybirds to provide interventions as usual. They, as well as other professionals or other temporary staff, can move between settings. They should ensure they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff. Such specialists will be aware of the PPE most appropriate for their role. Ladybirds Nursery ensures only relevant visitors, such as contractors and deliveries are allowed on site. Cleaning staff attend out of hours.

Further information can be [found here](#)

Relaxation of bubbles 22/4/21

We are relaxing the room bubbles to form a Ladybird bubble (Pre school & Kingfisher/Fun Focus) and a Babybird bubble (Doves & Starlings). This allows enhanced experiences for the children who will have access to different resources and spaces. It will also facilitate visits room to room.

Within the Ladybird bubble Kingfisher children are likely to be in the Pre school room in the afternoons, Pre school children will be based in the Kingfisher room after Forest school.

Each room maintains its own door for entry/exit so there is no change for parents dropping off or collecting. Frequent handwashing still remains a priority as does enhanced daily cleaning throughout the nursery.

The DfE have announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500 if they meet the eligibility criteria (which includes receipt of certain low-income benefits). The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which ends on 30 June, ensures that parents receive some financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities and are unable to work from home, [read more here](#).

Introduction of Lateral flow tests for PVI nurseries 18/03/2021

The government has delivered lateral flow test kits for nursery staff for week beginning 22nd March. This means that at Ladybirds all staff will now be tested twice weekly, once with a lateral flow test and once with the DnaNudge (PCR) test (the latter has been used since January 2021.)

What Parents need to know about Early Years Providers 16/03/2021

The government has updated its guidance on [what parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#).

This collection brings together information and guidance for parents on:

- Essential information for the spring term
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing
- Clubs and out-of-school settings
- Home schooling and remote education
- Support for children and young people

Malleable materials & lateral flow testing 03/02/21

Sand play is now allowed in individual rooms. It is not shared between different bubbles. Lateral flow tests are provided by Hertfordshire and are used by us for new staff in addition to the weekly sputum test which is administered by DNANudge (PCR standard).

Mask wearing & staff COVID testing 06/01/2021

Due to national lockdown and rising local COVID cases all parents are required to wear a mask at pick up and drop off times. Staff will also wear masks when talking to parents. Feedback will be brief; parents are reminded to check Tapestry for more information about their child's activities.

All staff are being tested weekly for Coronavirus.

Change in length of self-isolation period 14/12/2020

The Government has updated their guidance on the self-isolation period for close contacts reducing from 14 days to 10 days. This is applicable from today. More details are available [here](#).

Advice for Parents during Coronavirus 10/12/2020

It can be confusing to know what to do when your child is unwell during the coronavirus pandemic. Remember that the NHS is still providing safe care. GP practices and hospitals have made changes to help reduce the risk of infection. Only one parent/carer will be able to attend A&E with their child. Please use the hand

sanitisers provided, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and maintain social distancing. Remember: if your child is unwell, seek advice and medical attention.



[Advice for Parents when their child is unwell during the pandemic](#)

Guidance on self-isolation 20/11/20

Self-isolating means stay at home

Hertfordshire County Council has had some queries and issues raised around parents and carers allowing siblings who should be self-isolating attend or do the drop off/pick up at settings and schools.

Children and staff who have been asked to self-isolate as a close contact or as part of a bubble must stay at home and can only leave to get a test, for urgent medical assistance or in an emergency.

Hertfordshire County Council has produced [this reminder and guidance](#) to anyone who is asked to self-isolate.

Guidance for new national restrictions from 5th November 05/11/20

[New guidance](#) has now been published and includes details for:

- Early years and childcare
- Out of school activities & wraparound care

Travel advice and quarantine 14/10/2020

As half-term approaches it's important for everyone to remain informed of the latest Government travel guidance.

The list of countries with exemption is continuously changing, check the list [here](#). Any staff or children who travel outside of the approved travel corridor must self-isolate at home for 14 days on their arrival back into the UK. Full details are available [here](#).

They may also have to self-isolate when they arrive at their destination.

Checking Children's temperatures 12/10/20

There's no need to take a child's temperature every morning at your setting. Guidance states that "PHE is clear that routinely taking the temperature of children is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19)." Read more [here](#).

Letter from Director of Public Health in Herts



23 Sep 2020

[Letter to parents and carers from Jim Mc\[...\]](#)