

Oakey Dokeys Pre-School Covid-19 Policy for Re-opening updated May 28th 2020

As part of national social distancing measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have had to take action to reduce, as far as possible, the risk of spreading the virus within our setting. Since Monday 23rd March 2020 and until Friday 29th May 2020 we have only been open for the children of critical key workers and children who fall into the vulnerable category. From Monday 1st June 2020 we have been asked to welcome back more children into our setting, on the understanding that this will only go ahead provided the 5 key tests, set by the Government, justify these changes at that time, in particular that the rate of infection ('R' rate) continues to decrease. We are therefore planning for this, on this basis, ahead of confirmation, from the Government on 28th May 2020, that these tests are met.

We have carried out a detailed Risk Assessment. The risk assessment has directly addressed the risks associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19) so that sensible measures can be put in place to control those risks for children attending the setting, and all members of staff.

Following our risk assessment the following will be put in place:

2. Measures to be implemented to reduce the risk of infection:

An enhanced daily risk assessment and cleaning regime.

Reduced number of children in sessions.

From Monday 1st June 2020 we can welcome back children aged 3 to 4, and the children of critical key workers or those who fall within the vulnerable child category. We cannot offer childcare to children falling outside these groups for now as we need to cap our numbers to no more **than 16 children per session**, and we must be able to show that for those children attending the setting, we have made all possible effort to reduce the risk of infection to a minimum. The safety of children in our care, and their families are always our utmost priority and we will be working within the remit of government advice and planning, at that time. **This means that we will be dividing our room and garden into two areas and having two separate groups of up to 8 children, who will stay in those groups with the same staff members for the duration of the session.**

The two groups of children, which we are calling the Oak Group and the Acorn Group, will comprise of the same cohort each session so that your child is mixing with a smaller number of children during the course of the week.

As far as possible, staff will also remain with the same group. Each staff member will be assigned either to the Oak or Acorn group and be in that group each session. In order to facilitate enough staff for all sessions we will have one member of staff who will work in the Oak group on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the Acorn group on Thursday and Friday. There will be no swapping of staff from group to group during any sessions, unless a member of staff becomes ill, when we will replace them with another staff member who is not assigned to a group (Lisa in most cases).

There will be staggered start and finish times for our children. Those in the Acorn group will arrive at 8.30am and leave at 11.30am or 3.15pm depending on whether or not they are attending all day. Those in the Oak group will arrive at the normal time of 8.45 and leave at 11.45am or 3.30pm. Lunch club for the Acorn group will be 11.30 -12.15 and for the Oak group 11.45-12.30pm.

All handovers will be done at the gate, Parents visitors will not be permitted to enter the setting during this time, and we will ask that only one parent accompanies their child to the setting. Please avoid lingering around the gate to Oakey Dokeys at drop off and pick up to maintain as much social distancing as possible.

Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms: this will rely on parents also being very honest with regard to keeping children away from the setting if they have knowingly come into close contact with anyone who has subsequently developed Covid-19 symptoms.

Practising frequent handwashing/sanitising within the setting and upholding the highest basic hygiene practises. Children will be washing their hands-on arrival to the setting and frequently washing/sanitising during the day.

We will be reducing the number of toys and resources out in the setting at any one time and we will be removing soft toys and most soft furnishings to allow for easy, quick, thorough and regular cleaning within the setting.

Children will have their own cups and plates, for use when they are here, and these will remain here and be washed and disinfected between uses or thrown away after use if disposable.

It is widely accepted that young children cannot be socially distanced, however, we will be doing our best to create space within the setting, making use of the whole garden and woodlands area as much as possible. at lunch time and snack time we will be using the outside space to create picnic areas as the outside environment reduces the risks.

While we will be doing our best to uphold the highest levels of hygiene and good practise to minimise risk of spreading the virus, in line with government guidance we will not be wearing PPE within the setting, unless a child becomes ill (see below). Additionally, we believe masks are frightening for young children and that they need to see faces to register emotion and learn to speak!

3. Attendance

No one with symptoms will be attending the setting for any reason. No-one self-isolating or living within a household where someone is self-isolating or who has been in contact with anyone who is self-isolating or developed COVID-19 symptoms will attend the setting under any circumstances. We rely heavily upon the honesty of parents in this matter. If your child or anyone in your household or anyone you have been in close contact with develops symptoms of Coronavirus (COVOD-19) you must inform us straight away so that we can inform other families and arrange testing for our staff .

4. What happens if a child becomes unwell at the setting:

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature in our setting, they must be sent home, and will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection) available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection>

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to the office or lobby area to be isolated and supervised by a member of staff a window will be opened for ventilation in these areas.

If they need to go to the toilet while awaiting to be collected, they will use the accessible toilet. the bathroom will then be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will only be worn by a member of staff caring for the child while awaiting collection if 2 meters cannot be maintained. All PPE then must be doubled bagged and disposed of after use.

In an emergency, if they are seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk we would call 999.

If a member of staff has helped someone unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature, they will not be sent home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available)

5. What happens if a member of staff becomes ill at the setting?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature in our setting, they must be sent home, and will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection) available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection>

Any staff member who is unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus must get tested. If the test is negative they can return to the setting and no self-isolation of their household is necessary.

6. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with corona virus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Other household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who attend our setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and will be encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

If a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to our setting and fellow members of their family can end their self- isolation

If a child or staff member tests positive, all children and staff within that group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Other family members who they live with do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms.

7. Temperature is at start of day

Parents, carers, and staff at the setting do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method of identifying coronavirus

8. Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing:

We will be talking to the children openly about why we are doing things the way we are, why we cannot do the things we usually do, why we cannot meet up with friends and why we are trying to minimise contact between each other. We will do this in a child appropriate way and learning the "Baked Potato" song. We do not want them to be worried or frightened and we will answer any questions openly and as honestly as we can. We will be helping them with handwashing etc. and we will try to do all our normal things such as song time, story time, etc. within the confines of the procedures at the setting as much as possible. It is our sincere hope, as is yours I'm sure, that we can get back to some sense of normality eventually.