

First Steps Playgroup

FIRST STEPS



PLAYGROUP

The Old School Hall

Church Road

Barlestone

CV13 0EE

01455 292083 - 07903 132279

April 2021

COVID 19

Dear Parents & Carers,

These are the procedures we have put into place:

If your child has any of the following symptoms, it is essential you get a COVID 19 test and stay away from playgroup if any of your household tests positive for COVID 19. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

1) Please do not send your child to playgroup if they have a temperature of 37.8 or above. If they develop a temperature during playgroup they must be collected immediately. Children must stay at home for 10 days and the rest of the household must self isolate for 10 days.

2) Please do not send your child to playgroup if they have a persistent cough or develop a new cough. Please keep your child at home for 10 days and the rest of the household must self isolate for 10 days.

3) Please do not send your child to playgroup if they report the loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Please keep your child at home for 10 days and the rest of the household must self isolate for 10 days.

Travelling to playgroup:

In line with government guidelines we recommend that the safest way to travel is by walking to playgroup, however we recognise that this might not be possible for every family.

If you do need to use public transport then please follow the guidance set out by the government: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

Please see our COVID 19 risk assessment on how to safely use PPE on: <https://www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk/>

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Social distancing

Social distancing markers in and outside of the car park will be clearly marked at 2 metres apart. This prevents the likelihood of close contact and prolonged times of parents congregating in the car park to generally chat. To keep parents, children and carers safe particularly now there are more using the setting, vehicles are not be permitted to access the car park, during session times, to pick up or drop off (with the exception of an emergency).

To maintain social distancing parents and carers must use our one way system by entering via the front gate and exiting by the side gate.

The gates will be closed by 10am and again at 12.45. They will be reopened at 2.50pm

Staggered starting and finishing times

If your child has attended during the spring term 2021 you should continue to bring & collect your child at the pre-arranged times. If your child is new to the setting then Alison will of either confirmed start and collection times verbally on the phone or emailed you to confirm these times.

The government recognises in the guidelines that it is not possible to expect very young children to social distance. This is because 2-4 year olds are not able to understand why social distancing is so important. Young children need support with personal care, emotional care and physical care especially if they have fallen over and hurt themselves.

The children will be using the big room and small room & utilising the outdoor space as much as possible. Both rooms will have windows open for extra ventilation.

Alison & a member of the team will greet each parent at their allocated drop of time and take your child's temperature, listen and note down any updates you may have about your child. A member of staff will come out and welcome your child and take them into the setting to sanitise their hands and settle them in. The government guidelines still recommend that parents don't enter the setting.

Hand washing & sanitising hands.

We are supporting the children to wash their hands more thoroughly & regularly (we have visuals in all toilet facilities of how to safely wash hands for 20 seconds, children will be assisted every time they wash their hands

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by a member of staff) when they are dropped off in the morning they will sanitise their hands, before and after food, going to the toilet, after outdoor play and if they sneeze or cough. At the end of the day we will apply hand gel before they leave the setting. We will watch u-tube clips of hand washing daily with the children and model hand washing. Please see the NHS guidance on hand washing:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Cleaning

All toys are sanitised with bleach daily once the children have gone home including all surfaces and frequently touched items such as light switches door handles phones, keyboards etc. During opening hours we will regularly wash toys and frequently touched areas with water & fairy liquid. We will not swop toys from one room to the other until a sterile clean has taken place at the end of each day when the child have gone home.

Risk assessment

We have implemented a revised COVID 19 risk assessment which will be accessible on First Steps website from Monday 12 April 2021. <https://www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk/> This included details of how we respond to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19 in the setting. Please be advised that guidelines are continuously being updated and therefore we will make appropriate changes and update our risk assessment where necessary.

The latest information on coronavirus can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> & guidance that we are using to keep your child safe whilst in playgroup can be found at:

[Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#)

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

We appreciate that these new measures may cause inconvenience, however during this time we must follow government advise to, safeguard the children & their families, the staff & their families and do everything we can to contain this disease.

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Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

A J Blackery

Manager of First Steps Playgroup

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