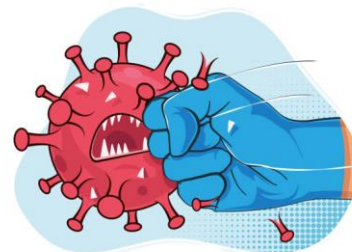


5<sup>th</sup> December 2021



## COVID-19 procedures

I am aware that parents, carers and staff may have concerns about an increased risk from COVID-19 in the run up to Christmas and due to the new variant, Omicron, that has been reported. I would like to remind everyone of some of the safety measures that are part of the guidance from the Scottish Government. Implementing these will reduce any risk and ensure a safe run up to Christmas and beyond and a continued education for the children.

### Symptoms of Covid-19 and testing

The main symptoms of concern are a cough, a high temperature and a loss of taste or smell. **If your child or anyone in your household has these symptoms, your child should not come to nursery**, until your child (or the person with the symptoms) has had a PCR test as negative. This can be booked on the “NHS inform” website. If you choose not to have your child tested, they will need to stay at home for 10 days from when their symptoms started. I know that this is extremely challenging for families, especially as coughs are very common at this time of year. **It is important to remember though that COVID-19 can have very mild symptoms and it is not possible for you to know that “it’s not covid” – the only way to be sure is through testing.**

### Regular lateral flow asymptomatic testing

Free tests are widely available for families. Nursery staff use these to test themselves twice per week (or more). Please remember though, that these tests are designed to identify covid-19 when there are no symptoms. **If anyone has a cough or temperature, it is a PCR test that is required.**

### Communication with nursery

Communication with nursery is very important. **If your child is absent, please phone nursery to tell us why.** This is the procedure anyway, but even more important during this pandemic, as the Scottish Government expect us to report each week on how many covid and non-covid absences we have (please note: we do not share any individual information about children and families). We will ask each day, when you are dropping off children, if everyone in the household is well. This is not meant to be intrusive but just a helpful way to make sure everyone is aware of the situation. If you have any questions, concerns or even frustrations about the covid procedures, please phone to speak with me.

### Face coverings

We are taking a common sense approach to face coverings at pick up and drop off times. It is helpful to wear one, however as our collection and drop off are almost all outside, the risk is low. Please be mindful of distance with other parents, and with staff, at busy times. If you come into the nursery building, for example for settling children or for a meeting, you will be asked to wear a face covering, and to complete a standard short covid questionnaire.

### **Additional reminders about food and toys**

This is not related to Covid directly however I would like to remind parents and carers that children should not be coming in to nursery with sweets, snacks or other foods. There are regular opportunities for children to have a healthy and sufficient snack at nursery, and bringing in other foods can create hygiene and cleaning issues, and also problems around food allergies and the reaction of other children to seeing different snacks being eaten. We also prefer toys not to come into nursery, as they tend to get lost and cause upset of children and it is not reasonable for me to ask my colleagues to supervise these. If you have any individual requests about toys or snacks, then please speak with me.

I hope that this letter does not come across as too negative – the Langa Street Team are very excited about a fun Christmas period in a safe environment. Please see the newsletter for the latest dates for parties and Christmas lunch.

Best wishes

*Steve Rivers*

Head of Nursery