

12th March 2020



Dear Parents and staff,

RE: COVID-19 update

The coronavirus outbreak that began in Wuhan, China has now been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO). On 11 March the outbreak was officially labelled a "pandemic" by the organisation after the virus spread to more than 100 countries.

We would like to inform you of the steps that Hopes and Dreams Montessori Nursery school are taking to ensure the welfare of the children, parents and staff.

We will maintain our commitment to continue the care and education for the children and Hopes and Dreams Nursery School will **remain open**. A closure would only happen as a last resort if enforced by the government, advised by PHE or dictated by circumstance, e.g. a significant outbreak of infection.

However, rest assured that we will not put the health of the children, parents and staff at risk and the following precautions are in place.

We are following the guidelines as set by Public Health England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> .

Rigorous infection control measures

Hopes and Dreams Nursery School have thorough infection control measures in place, including:

- good hygiene practices, including regular hand-washing (practitioners, parents and children)
 - when children, parents, visitors and staff arrive at the Nursery School
 - before breakfast, meals and snack times
 - after using the toilet
 - after outside play
- encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash hands



Registration Number 0315 1637

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- staff are required to cover any existing wounds or lesions with waterproof dressings
- additional hand sanitizers have been installed throughout the Nursery School
- personal protective equipment (PPE) such as aprons and gloves are used as standard practice
- there are procedures in place for cleaning equipment and the environment, which has been strengthened with additional weekend deep cleaning and a focus on door handles, bannisters and hard surfaces twice a day

Additional measures

- visitors are asked to sign a declaration form regarding their recent travel when arriving at the Nursery School
- we have temporarily suspended home visits
- postponed all further external school trips until further notice
- a business contingency plan is in place to follow in the event of forced closure

We ask parents, children and staff to:

- not attend the Nursery School if they feel unwell
- follow the hygiene policies and procedures in place
- Inform us if you have been in direct contact with any person/s whom has been confirmed with the Coronavirus
- inform us of any travel to any countries of high risk as specified by Public Health England before attending the Nursery School
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

We are closely monitoring the developing situation with COVID-19 and have added a tab called CORONAVIRUS UPDATE on our website <https://www.hopesanddreams.co.uk/> which we ask you to check daily. This will be updated by 4 pm every day.

The Management Team