



Newchurch Pre-School

Newchurch Pre-School News

Autumn Term One 2020

Welcome to the Autumn Term at Newchurch

As we make a start to this academic year, we would like to welcome all our children and families back to Pre-School, we hope you have had a lovely summer making lots of treasured memories.

We also welcome lots of new children and families who have joined us this September and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Newchurch Pre-School as your childcare provider, we are certain your child will thoroughly enjoy their time with us at Pre-School.

Covid-19 Site Operating Procedures

Before the start of term our site operating procedures which includes a column of what parents will need to do during this time were emailed to all parents. Below are an overview of these things.

- Do not send your child in to preschool if they have suspected symptoms or somebody in the family is waiting on test results
- Inform Pre-school if your child or family member has suspected or confirmed symptoms
- Not administer Calpol, ibuprofen etc. under any circumstances before attending. If these have been administered your child must stay at home
- Collect your child as soon as possible if requested to by the pre-school
- Ensure your child has a bag with a change of appropriate clothing for each session they attend
- Encourage your child to walk from the line into the pre-school independently where appropriate carrying their own belongings (an exception to this would be if this prevents the child's emotional needs being met or if it is unsafe for the child to do so.)
- Ensure you always hold your child's hand in the carpark and encourage them to stay within the line
- Do not park your car in the Parish Hall car park, please park in the Sainsburys car park when dropping off and collecting your child
- Provide your child with the necessary cutlery needed for items in their lunchbox such as spoons for yogurts
- Do not allow your child to bring personal items such as toys to pre-school
- Ensure your child brings their own bottle to each session
- Ensure any incoming injuries are recorded upon the Tapestry Memo 'Incoming Injuries' prior to your child attending their session – this is only accessible by web browser not on the app
- Use the 'Communication with Pre-School' memo to share any messages with us

When dropping off and collecting your children we also ask that to maintain distance you do not come up onto the step outside the door. If the children need support coming into the building or leaving a member of staff will support them with this and come to them where necessary.

Wet/Muddy Shoes

During this time of the year large water puddles and areas of mud form within the car park and near to the entrance door area. Please prevent your child from walking through these areas, we have had several incidents of mud being walked into the pre-school and onto the mats

where the children sit. If your child has their wellies on for their walk to pre-school, please ensure they have a suitable pair of indoor shoes in their bag to change into.

Snack Menu Changes

Over the summer we have reviewed and made some alterations to our snack menu to include vegetables more frequently alongside the fruit on offer. Our menu will now run on a two-week rolling rota and a fruit and vegetable option will be offered at least three days each week.

Outdoor Play

It is essential that young children have frequent and regular opportunities to explore and learn within the outdoor environment. The Early Years Foundation Stage places a strong emphasis on the importance, and value of daily outdoor experiences for children's learning and development. We open our garden at Pre-School every day and in all-weather types. As we approach the cooler and wetter months please can you ensure that your child has the appropriate outdoor clothing i.e. warm waterproof coat, hat, scarf, gloves, wellies etc. for each of their sessions.

Appropriate Clothing Indoors

During the winter months and the current Covid-19 pandemic we need to still be ensuring the pre-school is well ventilated with fresh air throughout the day.

This will mean that although the heating will be on, this will be at a lower level than in previous winters, you need to ensure your children are dressed appropriately with layers so items such as jumpers/cardigans can be taken off if children become too hot and put back on if they are feeling cold.

Packed Lunches

Lunch is an important meal for children to provide energy and nutrients to keep them going throughout the afternoon. The key to a healthy packed lunch is variety and getting the right balance of foods to provide children with all the nutrients they need to stay healthy. Research has shown that getting children to enjoy healthy food from an early age is the way to help them eat well for the rest of their lives.

Including grapes in your child's lunch box?

Whole grapes and other similarly shaped foods such as cherry tomatoes are a choking hazard as there are ideally suited to cause paediatric airway obstruction.

If you pack grapes or similarly shaped foods into your child's lunch box, please can you ensure these have been cut in half length ways to prevent a choking hazard.

Grapes should always be cut length ways so they can pass more easily through smaller throats and never width ways, as by cutting width ways they are still big enough to choke on.

Any grapes that have not been cut will be returned in the children's lunchboxes.

One sweet treat can also be included in your child's lunch box. Sweet treats are things such as jelly, biscuits, cakes, and chocolate. Fruit winders, yo yo bears and other fruit concentrate snacks will also be classed as a sweet treat due to the high sugar content. If your child has more than one sweet treat within their lunch box, the children will be asked to choose one treat and the others will be returned home.



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Snail

We have welcomed a new pet into pre-school our giant land snail. Over the past few weeks, the children have been helping to take care of the snail, changing its food, and observing the snail grow. We have been gathering ideas of names for snail from the children and we will be doing a vote on our Facebook page to decide on the final name so keep a look out for this.

Children's Bags

Storage at pre-school is limited and we are finding storing all the children's back packs is becoming a struggle. This means the children cannot always easily access their bag when needed. From January we are therefore asking a PE style bag draw string bag is used instead of large backpacks. These will store much easier upon the coat rack and will make it easier for the children to access then during the day if needed.

Prompt Drop Off and Collections

We understand several parents are taking siblings to school and have different staggered start times and balancing these is a task. Our morning session begins at 9am and from entering the pre-school the children go straight into their morning routine. To minimise disruption for them and to ensure the children can join in all aspects of our routine please can parents aim be at the pre-school as close to 9am as possible.

Morning sessions finish at 12pm and afternoon sessions end at 3pm. Please ensure you leave plenty of time to get to pre-school in good time for the end of your child's sessions, so they are collected on time. Late collections at the end of the day have a knock-on effect for staff members leaving to collect their own children from schools.

We appreciate that with the staggered collection times at school you may need to collect your child before 3pm and therefore have a 2.45pm collection as well as our 3pm collection. If you are collecting your child at 2.45pm, like other collection times it is extremely important you are on time as it can be distressing to our younger children when the door is continually opened/closed due to late arrivals. Any late collections of the agreed time may be subject to our late collection fees.

Tapestry

As outlined within our site procedures we are using Tapestry as our main line of communications with parents during this difficult time. Please ensure you are regularly checking your Tapestry account for any new memos of communication.

If you are a new parent and have not yet activated your account, please check your emails for your activation email. If you have any difficulties with this, please let us know.

Christmas/Nativity Plans

Whilst we will still be doing a range of activities with the children during the festive period, we will not be hosting our usual events where parents are invited in to do activities with their children.

It is also with deep regret that we inform you there will be NO nativity performance for parental spectators this year.

We are currently putting some plans together that will involve our school leavers only and further details of this will be sent to the parents of those children concerned soon.

Diabetes Awareness Month

November is 'National Diabetes Month'

Having a child attending the pre-school who is a type 1 diabetic we will be taking part in raising awareness by holding a themed activity week to fundraise for the charity. To enable all children to participate we will have an activity timetable which will run across each day in the week commencing Monday 9th November. The activity timetable will be shared with all parents ahead of time.

Google Reviews

We have a high level of new enquires which come through Google and are therefore currently working on developing our business listing on Google. Please can we ask if you can spare a few minutes to find us on Google and leave us a review.

This will really help prospective parents to learn a few things about us before they visit.

We would really appreciate you taking the time to share your experiences of the pre-school.

Thank you

The return to Pre-School has been different this year with new procedures in place for both adults and children. We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your help in adapting to these changes and following our new procedures to keep Pre-School as safe as we can be during these difficult times.

Although we do not have as much contact time with you as in previous terms we are always contactable and here if you need us.