



The Lea Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the children and families who already know us well- it's lovely to have all of the children back at Nursery. Welcome also to the new children and families who have started, your child is certainly starting during a strange time worldwide with all of the adjustments for coronavirus. Despite this, I hope your child is very happy during his/her time at Lea Nursery.

Over the next few weeks we will have a few more new faces joining us. Some children settle quickly, others take a few weeks. Please don't worry if your child takes a little while to settle- this is very normal. Please be assured that all staff will do their best to make all children feel at home at Nursery.

Throughout your child's time at Nursery please always feel welcome to talk about your child, his or her experiences and the things that you need support with. It is by working together in partnership with you that we achieve the best possible outcomes for children. If you ever feel anxious about any aspect of your child's Nursery experience please talk to your child's keyworker or catch me and ask to have a word. You will see me most days at the gate at the beginning and the end of the session.

I am aware that due to COVID-19 guidelines we are asking parents to leave children at the gate where possible. If you would like to write a message for your child's keyworker there are pens and paper available at the gate- I will ensure that the message gets delivered to the appropriate keyworker.

Newsletter

We send out a newsletter most months. Please read it when we send it out- it generally contains a mixture of information (some of it important) and also information on children and their learning.

Collection Times

As you are aware we have been asking morning children to be collected by 11:20 and afternoon children to be collected by 15:00 so that we could thoroughly clean the Nursery between sessions. Thanks to the efforts of the staff team we now have a well-established routine for cleaning and are able to extend your child's hours to the following times:

Morning Children: Please collect between 11:15 and 11:35

30 hour Children: Please collect between 14:20 and 14:35

Afternoon Children: Please collect between 15:00 and 15:15

We are aware that siblings in local primary schools could be finishing at different times. If your child is due to finish at 15:00 but you'd prefer to collect him/her at 14:20-14:35 instead then please let us know and this can be arranged.

Coronavirus Safety Guidelines

Please try (wherever possible) to leave your child at the gate rather than coming in with him/her. If your child is new and upset on arrival, please sanitize your hands and wear a face covering (that covering your nose and mouth) when you come into the Nursery garden. The guidelines we have been given advise that parents should not be allowed into school buildings. We are therefore asking all parents to stay outside.



I've had some parents express concerns that children are spending their whole session outside- this is not the case. Children are allowed inside 20-30 minutes after they arrive and from this point onwards they choose freely whether they wish to learn and play inside or outside. We are encouraging outdoor play and learning as much as possible, because as you are aware outside is a safer context for all of us currently.

Please try to keep 2m distance between yourselves and other parents/children at drop off and collection time. We all need to do this to stay safe.

Children's Learning.

In each newsletter we like to update you on children and their learning. Adding photographs makes the newsletter more accessible to children.

With so many new children starting we will be working hard to introduce all children to our code of behaviour- having a shared code for behaviour means that children respect each other and the environment and this puts them in a good position for future learning. Our code of behaviour includes the following principles.

We have gentle hands and kind hearts.

We are thoughtful and helpful.

We use words to tell others when we aren't happy.

We keep ourselves and other children safe.

We always try our best



For many children Nursery is vitally important for social interactions. Social interaction and the ability to share, take turns and play co-operatively with other children is a part of the early year's curriculum. Above are a few photographs of children demonstrating this skill beautifully!

Breakfast Club

We have a breakfast club each morning between 8:00am and 8:35am and we still have a limited number of spaces available. There is cereal or toast on offer for those children who have not eaten breakfast. There is a £3 per day charge for the breakfast club (unless it forms part of the 30 hours for children with a 30 hour place.) Please note that this service needs to be booked beforehand- children will not be allowed to join the breakfast club on the day. This club is also only available to children who are 3-4 years of age.

The Car Park

As many of you are aware the car park area can be very congested in the mornings and afternoons. Please try (as far as possible) to walk to Nursery with your child. It is a good opportunity to encourage your child to ride his/her bike or scooter. If you are bringing your child by car then please ensure you park in designated parking zones and you are not blocking the flow of traffic with your car.

Unfortunately, we are not currently able to offer the 'walking bus' facility that we have offered in previous years. We hope to resume this once again when the situation with COVID-19 settles down.



Bike and Scooter Day

On **Tuesday 29th September** we would like to invite your child to bring his/her bike or scooter to Nursery. Children will have plenty of opportunities to ride their bike during the day. Please label your child's bike/scooter with his/her name and note that we will be disinfecting it on arrival at Nursery. We would encourage you to thoroughly clean it again when you get home.

If your child does not have a bike or scooter, please don't worry- we have plenty of bikes and scooters at Nursery that he/she will be able to use.

Staff Update

You may have noticed that Mrs. Sharma has not been around this term. She is unfortunately not well at the moment - we hope to welcome her back to Lea at some point soon.

Clothing

Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for Nursery. **Please label all clothing, bags and water bottles with your child's name.** We are constantly encouraging children to be independent managing their own clothing. Please help us by teaching your child to put his/her own clothing (including coat and shoes) on. Please show your child how to hang his/her coat on his/her peg each day. Children have daily opportunities to paint and play with messy materials. Please send your child in clothing that you don't mind him/her getting dirty. We will always encourage children to wear an apron, but occasionally they do get dirty. Children have daily opportunities to climb in the nursery garden. Long dresses and high heels are not appropriate for climbing. Please dress your child in easy to manage clothing- dungarees and trousers with belts often make independent toileting difficult.

Your child has blue bag on their coat peg. Please bring a change of clothing to put in this bag. If your child gets wet we change him/her into these clothes.

School t-shirts and jumpers are available to purchase at Reception.

Attendance

Please don't underestimate the importance of regular attendance at Nursery. We know that all of you want your child to grow up to be well-qualified, well-paid and successful. **Regular attendance at school is associated with higher achievement.** We want all of the children attending Lea Nursery to achieve to the best of their ability.

Having said this please be aware that your child needs to stay at home if he/she or anyone in your household has had the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means your child feels hot to touch on his/her chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if your child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your child's sense of smell or taste

If your child or anyone in your household has any of these symptoms we would advise that you self-isolate and book a COVID test. If the test is negative your child is able to return to Nursery. If anyone in the household tests positive your child will need to self-isolate and stay home for 14 days.

Please report all absences to Nursery, giving the reason for absence. We need this information to keep all children safe. If you do not call Nursery we will text you and ask you to text, email or phone us. If you do not respond we will phone you to find out the information.

Reporting Absence

If your child is absent please report it in one of the following 3 ways:

- Phone the Nursery on **01753 536492**
- Text the Nursery on the following number **07786208889**
- E-mail the Nursery using the address post@lea-nursery.slough.sch.uk

Please continue to talk to children about the following principles:

- Covering their mouth when they sneeze or cough (using a tissue or elbow.) The tissue should be thrown straight in the bin and they should wash their hands with soap afterwards.
- This Youtube video is aimed at children and teaching them the proper hand washing technique.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>
- Avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth. (This includes discouraging children from sucking their own thumbs and fingers.)

Parent Workshops & Outings

Unfortunately, at the moment we will not be holding parent workshops or taking children on outings. We hope to resume these at a later date.

Mobile Phones



Please note that Nursery is a mobile free zone. Please don't use your phone while you are on the Nursery site, including if you are settling your child in the Nursery garden.

Snack



We rely on donations of fruit for snack time. Please bring in at least one piece of fruit a week. These will be thoroughly cleaned, cut and shared between all of the children.

Term Dates

Autumn 2020

Term 1

Term starts on: Tuesday 1st September 2020

Tuesday 1st September 2020 is an INSET day and school is closed for children.

Term ends on: Friday 23rd October 2020

October Holiday: Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 2nd November 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020 is an INSET day and school is closed for all children.

Term ends on: Friday 18th December 2020

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021