



Aclet Close Nursery School

Aclet Close, Bishop Auckland,

Co. Durham DL14 6PX

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www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk



12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Update for reopening

I would once again like to thank you for your continued support during the pandemic and hope you and your families remain safe and well. I know from the telephone conversations we are having with you how difficult it can be for some of you trying to balance work, home, childcare and home schooling (for our children and older siblings) and we also know how the children are missing their friends and being at school. We are really missing them too!

You will know the Government are instructing all Primary, Secondary, Special and Colleges to remain only open to keyworker and vulnerable children and to start a possible reopen for other children on March 8th 2021 and at the same time, despite being in Tier 4 and following all the restrictions, saying Maintained Nursery Schools and all other Early Years Providers should now 'open to all as normal'.

However, as you know our school risk assessments, Covid19 case figures in the area, guidance and advice (Locally and Nationally) showed it was not safe to open 'normal and fully' for our young children, staff and families.

Our 'normal' group size in the main nursery building is up to 32 children per session and in the 2s room it is up to 12 children across the day with up to 13 staff working across both rooms. This means if any child or staff member tests positive for Covid19, there is a chance either all 64 children on roll and up to 16 staff (depending on factors, such as close contact, dates/timing of cases etc) would have to isolate for 10 days as in accordance with government guidelines. At the moment we are currently operating with smaller numbers and keeping the children and staff in smaller 'bubbles', another safety factor in our risk assessment, helping prevent positive cases.

We have now received lateral flow testing kits for staff to self-test at home, twice a week and we feel this is a move in the right direction as it is adding another layer to our risk assessment, but it does not fully guarantee we are 'Covid free'.

The Governing Body and I continue to assess the level of risk at nursery and monitor the number of positive cases in the area around school and surrounding areas, although they are still high they are now coming down. Bishop Auckland North & Coundon Grange – rates have remained the same, Bishop Auckland Central & West – rates have gone down slightly by 47.1%, Bishop Auckland South – rates have increased by 214.3% this week.

The following information is available from the Gov.uk website (28th January 2021):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact anytime from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed

Mrs Lisa Jenkins
Head Teacher



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their symptoms, and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A risk assessment may be undertaken to determine this, but a contact can be:

- *anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19*
- ***anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:***
- ***face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre***
- ***been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact***
- *sexual contacts*
- *been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)*
- *travelled in the same vehicle or a plane*

With this in mind, if your child is upset, you will need to make a quick decision about taking them home or you will be expected to leave your child, step back 1 metre and allow a member of staff to carry your child into nursery. (We know this might pull on your heart strings a bit)

Bags with spare clothes and nappies etc. must be left in nursery. If you do need to hand any items over to staff they need to be in a named carrier bag and left on the table outside of the door.

We will continue to monitor the number of cases over the half term holidays and we will contact you again during the week of Monday 22nd February to update you with regards to our school offer.

Once again, thank you for all you are doing with your children at home, I know this is not easy for some of you, trying to juggle everything at the same time. You are doing a BRILLIANT job during a very stressful time, we really appreciate all your support and for working hard in response to our home learning and helping the children learn whilst at home.

I am going to end with a message from the late Captain Sir Tom Moore, 'Tomorrow will be a good day. We will get through this and come out of it stronger, more united and ready to face any challenge together'.

Take care and stay safe.

L Jenkins

Lisa Jenkins

Head Teacher

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