



### A message from company director, Amanda Bennett

Dear Parents



Some time has passed since I last updated you, it feels like the right time to get in touch with you to share Schoolhouse's commitment to keeping our nurseries open and safe over the coming months. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding in such anxious times.

You will be familiar with our COVID secure guidelines that we put in place in June 2020, these have evolved and adapted to meet the most up to date Government guidance and best protect our teams and families.

As a reminder of our safety measures:

- \* We are monitoring symptoms and undertaking temperature checks of children, staff teams and visitors on arrival at nursery, helping to ensure those displaying symptoms do not attend.
- \* Only one parent to drop off/ collect from nursery- parents are kindly asked to wear a mask during this time.
- \* Carefully managed bubbles are in place to reduce contact between different age groups and rooms.
- \* Excellent personal hygiene is practiced throughout the nursery day with regular handwashing for everyone.
- \* PPE provided for all team members and masks to be worn when not in contact with the children (e.g. away from bubble group and room)
- \* Frequent and robust cleaning practises in place throughout the day as well as regular cleaning of touch points and commonly used areas. Fogging machines used at the end of the working week.



For more detailed information please speak to your Nursery Manager.

I am grateful to you all for your patience while you drop off and collect your child every day, especially as the colder and wetter weather is most certainly upon us. We fully appreciate this is not ideal however is required to minimise the footfall in our nurseries to keep everyone safe. We are aware that winter traditionally brings in its wake a number of non covid type illnesses and we would advise that children are kept home if they suffer from nausea, sore throat and show winter flu like symptoms and to only return once they are better.



Since the Firebreak Lockdown we have taken this opportunity to remind our teams of the importance of staying safe both inside and outside of work.

Also, it's important we continue to work in partnership with our families to protect each other and be informed of anyone displaying any symptoms, or is unwell so that we can take the necessary steps.

It is important that advice on self isolation is heeded and that we secure your cooperation with covid type symptoms.

We understand that many parents working patterns have now changed, and we will do our best to be as flexible as we can to support these changes. If you are working from home and would like some consistency and routine for you and your little one, please contact your Nursery Manager who will be able to discuss how we can best support your family and childcare needs during this challenging time.

Thank you for your continued support, and for placing your trust and confidence in us to care for your child, we value this trust now more than ever and by working together we can help to keep everyone at Schoolhouse safe and well.

Warmest Wishes  
Amanda





## Our Children's Themes and Activities....



**Did you know** that at DVLA nursery, outdoor play forms part of our daily activities and routine.

This is an ideal time for children to release energy, and to also use their imaginations in exploring all of the areas and adventures the gardens have to offer.

Children are also encouraged to have times of calm and reflection, often we will take our indoor activities outside to complete.

### Babies & Tweenies

The children in the babies and tweenies sections have been very busy using their senses recently.

They have enjoyed using a wide range of resources to create stimulating experiences within the section.

These activities and experiences have included a range of materials for messy play, natural objects such as leaves, twigs and pumpkins, and also a range of lights and welcoming colours.

The sections have developed sensory areas for the children to freely explore, these areas are enhanced by staff on a regular basis to ensure that they are welcoming and safe for the children.

### Toddlers

The toddler room remains an exciting space to explore and learn, with recently further enhanced sections and areas.

Children have been encouraged to be independent throughout their day in nursery and are also able to role play familiar scenes through areas such as the home corner. Familiar objects are placed within these areas to stimulating role play and the use of imaginations.

The toddlers have been spending a great deal of time outdoors and have also enjoyed messy activities such as pumpkin carving and painting.



### Preschool & playscheme

Preschool and playscheme have been ever so busy! The children have greatly enjoyed using the outdoor area and splashing in the puddles. The children have also enjoyed utilising the mud kitchen with the pumpkins.

Diwali has been celebrated and children particularly enjoyed the crafts and "henna" hand painting.

The routine in preschool includes discussions about feelings and emotions, the time is also used to share and enjoy stories.

The book "Little Rabbit Foo Foo" appears to be a firm favourite for the children at the moment!

Preschool are looking forward to plenty of winter activities and with a little bit of luck, hopefully they can enjoy some snow!



## Things To Do Together At Home

We would like to encourage all of our families to participate in the new approach at the nursery. A great focus will be on using natural and everyday resources, below are some quick and simple things you can do at home.

We would also like to encourage the use of recycled house hold items to make things.



In our summer newsletter, we suggested collecting and painting pebbles.

These make great items to use for an outdoor treasure hunt. (Something our preschool children really enjoyed recently!)



With plenty of fallen leaves available, why not collect some to create an autumn picture.

Whilst doing so, discuss the shapes, textures and colours of the leaves.



**11 December 2020—First day of Hannukah**

**15 December 2020—Nursery Christmas Party**

**17 December 2020—Nursery Christmas Dinner**

**24 December 2020—Christmas Eve (Nursery closes at 4pm)**

**25 December 2020—Christmas Day (Nursery closed)**

**26 December 2020—Boxing Day (Nursery closed)**

**28 December 2020—Bank holiday (Nursery closed)**

**31 December 2020—New Years Eve**

**1 January 2021—New Years Day (Nursery Closed)**

Please ensure that if you wish to book December playscheme dates, you do so as soon as the documents are made available.

## General reminders

We would like to please remind all parents to ensure that children have their names written on ALL belongings that they bring into the nursery. This includes coats which should now be coming daily as the weather is colder.

It is really important to us that children are provided with the opportunities for outdoor play and sensory experiences throughout the nursery day. Please ensure that children do not attend nursery in their best clothing, that spares and provided and that children have suitable clothing and coats for outside.

The nursery has a collection of coats and wellies, whilst these help to keep children dry and clean— they are not always 100% effective in doing so.

Wherever possible, please avoid bringing toys into the nursery setting. This is due to infection control measures, and to also avoid confusion at home time.



Please remember to like our Facebook page as this will also provide you with regular nursery updates as well as sharing what the children are currently learning whilst at nursery.

