**COVID -19 RE OPENING INFORMATIONS, PLANS, POLICY AND RISK ASSESMENT,**

**How is Abacus minimising the risk of people catching coronavirus?**

Many parents have questions about how Abacus will minimise the risk to children, families, staff and the wider community, during the coronavirus pandemic.

Abacus is focused on infection control andminimising the impact and reducing the possibility of exposure for children, families and staff.

Abacus has policies in place to protect against the spread of any serious disease, including infection control.

Abacus follows guidance given by government as per any other notifiable virus, (such as measles, mumps and scarlet fever), and nursery staff will spend more time on cleaning and hygiene during this period.

**What about childcare ratios?**

The UK government has allowed Abacus to adjust staff to child ratios, if necessary, to continue providing care and education, if a staff member is self-isolating.

With staff potentially being off-sick due to COVID-19 pandemic, the DfE guidance states: 'We consider the extent of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to be an exceptional temporary circumstance in which the staff-to-child ratios set out in the EYFS can be changed if necessary'.

Any changes Abacus makes to ratios are fully risk assessed and will prioritise the quality of care, safety and security of the children. Abacus has been updating and introducing additional measures in line with the latest guidance from the NHS, public health bodies and the government.

**How is Abacus is enforcing handwashing guidance?**

Practicing good hygiene has been identified as an important activity to avoid catching and spreading coronavirus.

* All staff and children will wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and hot water or will use hand sanitiser gel on site.
* After handwashing, disposable paper towels are used to dry hands and binned afterwards.

Abacus will ensure children wash their hands regularly to keep everyone safe including: before and after messy play; after going to the toilet; after playing in the garden; after blowing their nose and before and after eating.

**What steps Abacus taking to keep children safe?**

Abacus is taking a number of other important measures to reduce the risks of cross infection.

The 2m gap is marked outside Abacus for the children and parents to maintain the distance.

•  Abacus is keen to reduce the number of adults entering the nursery parents are requested to hand over their child at the door.

•  On arrival at the nursery, staff will ask parents to confirm their child has not been showing any symptoms (i.e. a new continuous cough and or high temperature of 37.8°C or more).

* All children on arrival will have their temperature checked.
* Abacus is using educational resources like handwashing songs and videos aimed at helping children take extra care when washing their hands. It has been posted on the website.
* To minimise the chance of infection, snacks will not be provided by Abacus for children.

•  Staff are cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces throughout the day and also at the end of the day.

•  Where activities may pose a higher risk, have temporarily suspended these activities, for example: sand and water play, cooking activities.

•  Personal waste (for example, nappies, used tissues, and other items soiled with bodily fluids) and disposable cleaning cloths will be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.

•  Abacus asks for parents’ queries to be communicated via phone or email instead of in person.

•  Any incident, accident or important information regarding a child’s welfare will be communicated to parents by email or phone.

**What if I am a parent and suspect I or my child has COVID-19?**

The COVID-19 symptoms are:

•  A high temperature of 37.8?c or above; or

•  A new, continuous cough (i.e. you have started coughing repeatedly).

If you have one of the symptoms shown above and your child attends Abacus:

•  Please inform a member of the nursery’s management team.

•  Young children share a household with a parent/guardian, and therefore, in accordance with government, you and your child must stay at home for 14 days. Everyone in that household must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

•  Do not enter Abacus during this period. To protect others, do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

•  Staying at home and self-isolating is important in stopping the virus from spreading and protecting other nursery children, families and staff members.

•  You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If the symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online at https://111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, telephone NHS 111.

**What if a child or nursery worker develops COVID-19 symptoms at nursery?**

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms at nursery, they will be:

•  Sent home to self-isolate for at least seven days if they live alone. (They must self-isolate at home for 14 days if they live with others).

If a child is displaying coronavirus symptoms, they will be:

•  Sent home for at least 14 days (because they live with a parent/guardian in a household).

•  While a child is awaiting to be collected by their parent, the child will be moved away from other children and, if appropriate, into a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation.

•  Younger children will not be left alone without adult supervision.

•  If it is not possible to isolate a child, they will be moved to an area which is at least two metres away from other children and staff.

•  After the child has been collected by their parent, nursery staff will clean the room.

•  Personal waste (for example, nappies and other items soiled with bodily fluids) will be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.  These bags will be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This will then be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual household waste bin for disposal.

•  Once the child has left, the whole nursery will be thoroughly cleaned that day.