

ST ANTHONY'S PRE-SCHOOL



St Peter's Community Centre
Holmes Avenue/Hangleton Road , Hove BN3 7LQ
Tel. 07718 097869



Owner: Lynne Butler, 11 Orchard Gardens, HOVE E Sussex. BN3 7BH Tel. 01273 772323

30th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of the new School Year at St Anthony's Pre-school

The new school year will start on Monday 7th September. We are all very excited and looking forward to welcoming the children back to St Anthony's after the summer holidays. We are also very excited to be able to show them our new school with its wonderful facilities. We know that it has been really challenging for families during lockdown and we can't wait for Pre-school to begin the journey back to normality. Although some things will not be the same, many things will be and I am writing to let you know about this.

You should by now know your child's session times but if you are in any doubt please contact me. We have been working hard to re-open in line with government advice. We appreciate that parents will have many questions about what this will look like in practice but please be reassured that safety is our number one priority, followed by supporting children, staff and families as we start the new school year.

Latest Government Advice

- It is not the expectation that children will be practising social distancing.
- We will be encouraging good hygiene by having more frequent hand washing, eg. On arrival, after free-time, before snacks and before going home.
- We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by teaching the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!' approach.
- We will have enhanced cleaning, including the cleaning with sanitiser of frequently touched surfaces. All equipment used will be disinfected after use.
- We have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), but will only use it when in close contact with a child or adult displaying COVID19 symptoms.
- Anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, must not attend the Pre-school.

Essential Actions for Parents and Carers

1. Make sure you prepare your child for coming back to St Anthony's.
 - It has been at least 6 weeks since attending St Anthony's but for many, it will be completely new.
 - Talk through the information we send to you including the attached Government leaflet 'Returning to Nursery for Parents/Carers'.
 - Get Pre-school uniform ready.
 - Make sure they have everything they need eg lunch, water bottle, coat.
2. Drop-off and Pick-up
 - We would strongly encourage parents and carers to walk / cycle / scoot to school.
 - Maintain 2m social distancing from other parents/carers, staff and children.
 - When dropping-off or picking up, please do not congregate outside the Pre-school.
 - DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDING.
 - If your child becomes upset upon entering, please be re-assured that we will look after them and comfort them. We can take them by their hand from you, but we cannot take them from your arms or have any contact with you. Please see '3. Settling-in'.

- If urgent, do speak to me on the door (from 2m), if not, please text or email me with any issues. Private and longer conversations are best done via phone or email.
- We will be taking your child's temperature upon arrival and if it is high, we will be unable to accept them at the Pre-school.
- **Do not bring your child to Pre-school if they are showing any symptoms of the virus. If this is the case, do phone me and let me know.** All children can now be tested for COVID-19. Therefore, if there is any doubt about whether a child (or adult) has the coronavirus or not, they should be tested before returning to school. If a child/adult or a member of their household has COVID-19 symptoms, they should isolate as per normal.

3. Settling-In

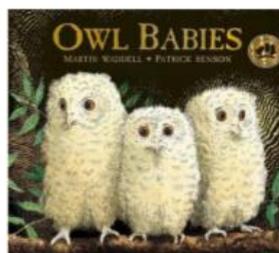
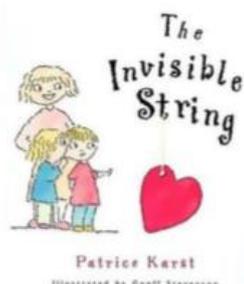
Government guidance states that parents and other adults must not enter the Nursery building. However, we do have a fully supervised garden with outdoor play equipment. New parents can settle their child in there for a short while and then hand over to a member of staff. However, we can only have a few parents at a time and may need to stagger this if needs be. If this would be of benefit to you, please let me know so that we can open the gate to the garden.

4. Ask questions

We appreciate you may have many questions about all these arrangements. Please email me with any queries. Some parents have found that our emails and newsletters have gone to their Junk mail box. If you feel that you have missed out on anything, do check your Junk boxes.

5. Returning To Pre-school

- The night before your child comes to Pre-school set out their school uniform, bag etc. in preparation for the next morning.
- If you show your child that you are positive and calm about attending Pre-school, he or she will pick up on that positivity. Consider your body language and tone of voice when talking about Pre-school. Focus on the good: seeing friends again, learning new things etc. - If your child is worried about going to Pre-school, encourage them to tell you or draw a picture of what is concerning them. Acknowledge and sit with their feelings – it is OK to not always have the answers or solutions. Empathy is the key rather than sympathy. There is an excellent You Tube clip explaining the key differences by Brene Brown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw>
- Put a note in your child's lunchbox if they are bringing one – ideas: "Enjoy your lunch! Love from Mummy" or "I'm thinking about you today. Love from Daddy."
- On your walk to school, play games like Eye Spy, count red cars or how many bikes you see.
- Have a goodbye routine (eg. High five, blow a kiss) and possibly a goodbye script: "Mummy/Daddy says goodbye, you go to school and then Mummy/Daddy comes back. I love you, bye."
- Here are some books that you could share with your child that have the theme of separation and reunion:



You can find these books being read on You Tube if you cannot get hold of a copy.

- **The most important things are to:**
- **Listen, observe and respond**
- **Remain curious and empathetic**
- **Be kind to yourself**
- **Seek help if needed – we are all in this together!**

Finally, please remember to look at our Facebook page on Friday of each week where we will be putting photos and information on the week's activities for you to see what the children have been doing. I am very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child back to St Anthony's in our sparkling new location. You can enter from the gate in Hangleton Road or through the Church yard off Holmes Avenue.

Best wishes,

Lynne

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I send my child back to Nursery?

Nurseries and childminders are wonderful places for children to learn and have fun with friends. Early education supports children's development and their overall wellbeing, and helps to give them a routine. Children develop quickly in the earliest years, which is why it is so important that children do not miss out on time with their nursery.

Is it safe for my child to return to their nursery or childminder?

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that the risk of transmission and infection is low if nurseries apply regular hand washing and cleaning measures. Evidence shows that children usually have mild or no symptoms and may have a lower risk of catching the virus compared to adults.

What protective measures have nurseries and childminders put in place to make sure they are safe?

Nurseries and childminders have put enhanced cleaning procedures in place for shared surfaces such as door handles, tabletops, play equipment and toys. They are also promoting more frequent hand washing and minimising contact between groups where possible.

Q What about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

A Staff will not wear facemasks in school unless dealing closely with a child/adult who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus. Staff will wear gloves when appropriate eg cleaning or doing first aid. Children should not wear facemasks in school as this is not government policy for young children and could unsettle other children.

Q Will parents be told if someone has COVID-19 in school?

A We will inform the relevant authorities and seek advice. It may be that some staff and some children are advised to be tested and/or isolate.