**CORONAVIRUS- DEALING WITH POSSIBLE/ POSITIVE CASES AND ISOLATION POLICY**

These procedures have been put into place to protect the children, staff, parents, and community from the threat and spread of COVID 19, with regard to the most recent government guidelines:

**The Department for Education Publication**- *‘Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak’* available at:

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040671/Actions_for_early_years_and_childcare_providers_during_the_COVID-19_pandemic.pdf)

**Updated 14/09/2021**

and

**Contingency Framework: Education and Childcare Settings**-available at:

[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings?utm_source=7%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#individuals)

**Updated 09/12/21**

*The preschool will continue to follow all guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, parents, staff, and the wider community by following the systems of control in place and will ensure-*

* *Good hygiene for everyone*
* *Maximised ventilation*
* *Appropriate cleaning schedules are adhered to*
* *Communication is transparent with parents and relevant agencies*

*Daily drop off and collections will remain outside at the gate where staff will greet you at 9am and 3pm. Please ring the doorbell if out of these times. The trolley will be used for dropping off and collecting your child’s items. Parents will only be permitted into the setting for necessary, valid reasons (please ask staff if unsure- e.g. for meetings regarding your child, settler sessions etc.). Where possible face coverings should be worn, and visits will be limited to one hour.*

**Children and Parents:**

* If a child shows displays of coronavirus ***(symptoms include- a new continuous cough= coughing for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in a 24-hour period; a high temperature= a temperature above 37.8C, or a loss of taste and smell)*** they will not be permitted to attend the setting.
* If a child develops these symptoms whilst in our care a member of staff wearing full PPE will remove the child from the classroom and isolate together with the child in the office, until the parent/carer collects the child
* The parent/carer will be asked to collect the child immediately.
* Once the child has been collected, the office will be thoroughly cleaned by a member of staff wearing full PPE (disposable gloves and apron).
* Disposable wipes or cloths will be used to clean all hard surfaces with hot soapy water and antibacterial disinfectant
* Any waste from cleaning will be double bagged and stored outside the bins for 72 hours and then disposed of in the waste.
* If an area of the preschool has been heavily contaminated, such as visible bodily fluids, protection for the eyes, gloves and aprons will be worn to clean and then clothes will be changed afterwards.
* If a child is sent home after displaying signs or symptoms of coronavirus the parent/carer must follow the up to date government guidelines/test and trace procedures.
* Children must not return to preschool for 10 days unless a negative PCR test result is displayed. ***Lateral Flow tests are not advised for use on children under the age of 12 years and are not for use if the person is displaying symptoms- a PCR test must be acquired in this instance.***
* Members of the household must isolate for 10 days if the child tests positive, unless they are double vaccinated (received their second dose 14 days prior to exposure) or are aged 18 years 6 months and younger, as per updated guidance.
* If a parent or member of the child’s household is unwell with symptoms of coronavirus or receives a positive test result we would kindly ask that the child is PCR tested before returning to the setting. Whilst children do not legally have to isolate if they are a close contact, St Teath Preschool has taken the decision to ask parents to please keep their child at home whilst awaiting test results or if any household members are positive for coronavirus to help protect other children, families, and staff. You will not be charged for your child’s session if the child is isolating due to a household member testing positive as this is a decision made by our setting and not a legal requirement, however, our usual sickness policy applies if the child themselves is poorly. An isolating parent with either symptoms or a positive test result MUST NOT drop off or collect their child from the premises and other arrangements made should be made.

**Staff Members:**

* Lateral flow tests are recommended for staff use and provided when possible
* If a staff member displays symptoms or signs of coronavirus they will not be permitted onto the premises. Should they develop these symptoms whilst at work they must immediately isolate and get a PCR test, if the test is positive the staff member will notify the preschool and track and trace. If the test is negative, they may return to work. If it is positive they should remain in self-isolation for 10 days, or 7 days where they obtain a negative lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 (24 hours apart) and are free of a high temperature.
* Should a member of staff live with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 they should arrange for a PCR test immediately and self-isolate in line with guidance.

**Systems for an outbreak in the preschool:**

* If one child or staff member tests positive for coronavirus all staff, parents/carers will be notified that we have a positive case and it is up to you, as parents, to decide whether you wish to send your child into the setting at this time- fees will still apply if you chose to keep your child home in this instance.
* As a response to any COVID 19 infection the systems of control shall be adhered to. These include engaging with NHS test and trace and notifying OFSTED as well as following testing and isolation guidelines.
* ***An outbreak is deemed by the Department for Education as***:

 5 or more positive cases linked to the setting within a 10 day period,

or 10% of children, staff and students testing positive within a 10 day period.

We have 30 children currently on our registers and 9 staff members, total= 39 with 10% being 3.9, therefore, should we have 3 or more positive cases within a 10 day period we shall operate our outbreak plan which may include closing the preschool to deep clean and isolate.

* Please be aware that the preschool may need to limit sessions/ temporarily close at any time in the event that we do not have the staffing to safely and legally operate, as we are required by law to maintain staff: child ratios at all times.

It is vital that parents are always available by telephone during their child’s session at preschool in case immediate collection is needed.

To keep the children, staff, and parents safe we must all adhere to the relevant and up to date government guidelines.

***Please regularly check Class Dojo and other means of communication to ensure that you are aware of any developments, and ensure that you alert the preschool as soon as possible should your child or someone in your household test positive.***