



Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are all keeping well and that you had a nice summer.

We at Linnet Montessori are delighted to be welcoming back the children for the Autumn term.

The impact of the last few months and how it is affecting children's development and learning is now a top priority for all of us and everyone is now keen to make up for lost time.

I am pleased to let you know that we have been working hard to take all necessary steps to be ready to welcome back children to the setting. We know this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work, family commitments and looking after your children, especially if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent. Rest assured the whole Linnet team is ready to support you and your child going forward.

The government is now encouraging all eligible children to attend as it is no longer necessary for parents to keep them at home.

Arrival at Nursery

- Please wash your child's hands thoroughly for 20 seconds before leaving home.
- Our opening times will be staggered as follows:

	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
2 year olds	9:00 am	12:15 pm
3+ year olds	9:10 am	12:25 pm

- Please observe Social Distancing when arriving/leaving the nursery.
- Only one parent/guardian to bring/collect children into the playground.

- If you are late for the drop off / collection of your child please text/call us and wait outside until you are called forward.
- Please leave the area promptly once you have collected/dropped off your child.
- Please do not bring anything from home for your child. No bags, no toys, no water bottles. We will provide all snacks and refreshments.
- Children will have their hands washed upon arrival at the setting.
- Staff will take temperature of the children at the gate.
- For children attending morning and afternoon sessions please bring packed lunch as normal.

During the Session

We will be providing a rich and enjoyable learning program for the children and to make it as safe as possible we will:

- Ensure handwashing several times during the session:

Before and after certain activities

Before eating or drinking

After blowing their noses

Before leaving the building for outdoor play

Before re-entering the building

Before leaving the setting

At any time staff think that it would be advisable

- We have developed routines and songs to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap.
- Children will be put into small groups (bubbles) and they will typically work with the same staff during the session to minimise contact with other groups around the setting.
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
During normal play, the government guidelines do not suggest wearing face masks or any other forms of PPE by staff other than what is usually worn when changing a nappy or wet clothes.

However we have decided as a setting that we will allow staff to make their own decision about the level of protection they wish to use.

- Staff will have their temperature taken upon arrival at the setting and will wash their hands frequently throughout the day and ensure that stringent cleaning practices are taking place.

Cleaning

- The setting will be thoroughly cleaned after each session by our cleaners.
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned thoroughly after every session.
- Surfaces touched by children and staff will be cleaned regularly throughout the sessions, including tabletops, door handles.

Safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority

Important !

If your child or anyone in the same household has any of the signs or symptoms of Covid-19:

- new dry cough
- high temperature
- change in sense of taste or smell

then do not bring your child to nursery.

You must keep your child away and you must arrange for the person to get a test.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

- You must stay at home until you get the result.
- If the test is negative, your child can return to nursery as normal.
- We would need to see a copy of the test results for our records.
- If the test is positive, you and the other members of your household, including children, must quarantine for 14 days. Please let us know if this is the case.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child becomes ill while at the setting.

- For everyone's safety, we will treat any signs of illness, particularly if the child has a temperature or cough, as possibly being the virus.
- Your child will be moved to a separate room with a member of staff and you will be asked to collect them.
- You must arrange for a test to be carried out
- You must inform us of the test result.

We hope this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us and to ensure safety for all in our setting. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back and we have great activities planned for them to continue their early years education, learning and development and make their sessions rewarding and enjoyable.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to ask us.

Linnet Montessori Preschool

