

# First Steps Playgroup



The Old School Hall  
Church Road  
Barlestone  
CV13 0EE  
01455 292083 - 07903 132279

**Autumn 2021**

## **COVID -19 easing of restrictions**

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you have had a good summer break. We are following the latest guidance from the government which has been updated in the last week and almost all COVID - 19 restrictions have been lifted for early years. The four main control measures to minimise any potential risk of the virus are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID -19

If a child has any COVID -19 symptoms, it is essential they get a COVID - 19 PCR test and they stay away from playgroup. If the test is positive the child must isolate for 10 days, if the test is negative then the child can return as long as they are feeling well. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Other members of the household do not need to isolate if they have been fully vaccinated or are under 18 years and six months. Instead they will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace with further information.

Children and ( Staff who are fully vaccinated) at Playgroup will not need to isolate if another child has tested positive in the setting.

We have updated our risk assessment and will continue with the increased cleaning, hand washing and ventilation that we have had in place throughout the pandemic. Please see details of our full risk assessment and contingency plan of how we will deal with an out- break of COVID - 19 on our website and sent out to you in a email.

As we have no social distancing restrictions we will have one starting time and end time to the day. 9am - 12noon for our morning sessions, 12.30-3.30pm for our afternoon sessions and 9-3.30pm for our full days. ( unless we have made any other pre-arranged times to suit our families)

*Step by Step Succeeding & Achieving*



firststeps@live.co.uk

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[www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk](http://www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk)

Charity commission 1167009

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We are continuing with our one way system entering through the big car park gate and leaving from the side gate on to the alley way at pick up and drop off times. This has worked well and will relieve congestion.

You can now enter Playgroup at drop off and collection times. We are highly recommending that adults wear a face mask on entry and exit through the kitchen reception area( unless you are exempt) for your safety, as it can get quite busy & congested at these times. Please put your child's belongings on their names coat peg and sanitise both yours and your child's hands. You can hand over any important information that we should know about to Alison or any member of staff on arrival to the setting.

We are asking parents to leave any bikes, scooters or pushchairs outside while you bring your child in to playgroup which will help relieve congestion in the kitchen/reception area. If you have a little one in a pushchair please do bring these ones in!

## Travelling to playgroup:

If you travel by car to Playgroup, please find alternative parking avoiding Church road. You can use the public car-park at the doctors surgery on Westfields. From the car park you can access the alley way park and walk down to playgroup. This supports us in keeping our children & parents safe at drop off and pick up times.

The latest information on coronavirus can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> & guidance that we are using to keep your child safe whilst in playgroup can be found at:

[Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#)  
[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)  
[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

We will continue to follow government advice & follow government advice to, safeguard the children & their families, the staff & their families and do everything we can to contain this disease.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

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A J Blackery

Manager of First Steps Playgroup

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