



# Discovery Montessori School & Spirit Day Care

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**Principal : Sarah Morton**

Dear Parents,

## Swine flu

I would like to assure parents that both Discovery Montessori School and Spirit Day Care are monitoring the current swine flu situation closely and are working with and receiving advice from a variety of agencies that we liaise with; for example the Health Protection Agency, Surrey County Council et al.

The latest advice states that:

"Any children who have been to an affected country, or had close contact with someone who has, and have become unwell, should stay at home and contact their GP or NHS Direct for advice and possible follow up".

As child care provision we are keeping a close eye on information updates and will re-access as necessary, for the health and safety of the children in our care and our staff team.

In the meantime, we continue to observe sensible and practical 'infection control' practices, along with good hygiene. We follow the "catch it, bin it, kill it" advice (as far as is humanly possible with small children, and ensure that equipment; particularly high risk equipment i.e. sand, water, play dough etc., is cleaned/changed on a regular basis. Ventilation, outdoor play and exercise are all important also.

We are re-evaluating our risk assessments and plans in order to have a comprehensive and workable plan should the situation become worse.

It is worth mentioning at this point that the 'bird flu' outbreak was potentially far more dangerous to humans than swine flu, and I would urge parents not to panic, but to take sensible, practical precautions.

Partnership is going to be absolutely paramount at this time, therefore, I would therefore ask the following:

- **INFORM** us if your child is sick; has a fever, is unwell, runny nose etc., and/or has had a recent visit to the doctor.
- **INFORM** us if your child has been near to, or in contact with any school, or any suspected outbreak of swine flu
- **CO-OPERATE** with us to ensure that the provisions remain healthy for our children.
- **UNDERSTAND** that should we be advised to close either or both provisions for your children and our staff, that we do so as a result of taking advice from the people who help provisions like ours monitor situations such as these and that such a situation is entirely beyond our control.
- **WE** will ensure that we maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene practices

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Spirit Day Care Ltd. trading as Spirit Day Care : Registered in England number 5166766 Reg. Office: 145, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6AW





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**Principal : Sarah Morton**

- **SHARING INFORMATION:** we will inform our health visitor or the HPA should we be concerned about any child, or have suspicions that they have been exposed to any unfamiliar virus. This fulfils our responsibility of care and welfare for ALL children and their families as well as practitioners and visiting professionals.
  - We will do all that we can to remain operational, but not at the risk of exposing to, or spreading infection.
  - We will share information and ensure that parents are informed and, where possible consulted should we find ourselves in a "what happens next..." situation.
- Should we close we will not be in a position to offer refunds, and I need to be clear on the reasons for this. Discovery and Spirit are both excellent and outstanding provisions. Whether children/staff occupy the premises or not, I am obliged to pay rent, consumable bills and salaries all year 'round. Therefore, if both provisions as businesses are to remain open following a time of crisis, then fees are fees, and are paid to keep both provisions functional and fully operational. This decision is made thinking about the longevity of the provisions. As both provisions are popular and well attended, as well as having an excellent reputation, I feel sure as partners that you would wish for them to remain open for the future.

Please be assured that we will not make any decisions without clear thinking and mindfulness for the children in our care. We will keep you informed on a regular basis and, should we have any updates, we will ensure that they are copied to you, or that we direct you to websites etc. We will use notices, newsletters, 'flyers' and our website for such updates, so please keep an eye out for the latest info.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either provision - we will be only too happy to listen.

With kind wishes

Sarah Morton  
Principal/Company Director  
Discovery Montessori School & Spirit Day Care.

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