

We are very much looking forward to restarting Junior Church and welcoming your children back to their groups. We take seriously the responsibility to run these groups in a covid-secure way and to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. Here is a summary of the steps we are taking.

For further information, our full risk assessment for Junior Church can be found on our website.

Children under 3

At the moment we are sadly not able to run a crèche and so your child will remain under your supervision during the church service.

We will create crèche 'pods' at the back of the main hall where you can be with your child whilst also listening to the main service – please bring some toys they would enjoy.

If your child needs to walk about, the lobby is free to use.

We need to ensure vulnerable members of the congregation remain socially distanced from others, so please do not let your child wander round the main hall.

We know it would be an encouragement for so many to see you and your child at church, but if bringing them to church without the normal crèche provision seems like too much to handle then please feel free to join the live-stream from home.

Children aged 3–11

We are going to be running Junior Church in two bubbles of 15 children:

Scramblers/Explorers (3-7s) – Lower Hall

Adventurers (7-11s) - Lounge

These groups will meet throughout the church service. Both rooms will be well ventilated before and during the session.

Here is some information that you need to know:

Before leaving home

- Please fill in a **registration form** for your child (attached to the email) and either return by email or print and bring with you to the first session.
- Please provide your child with a **water bottle** as we won't be serving drinks
- Encourage everyone to use the toilet!
- Please do not attend the session if anyone in your household is displaying any [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) or have been asked to self-isolate.

On arrival

- Please keep your distance from other families as you wait to drop children off at Junior Church and keep conversation to a minimum.
- Drop off your children at the designated entrance for your child's group **from 9:20am:**
 - Scramblers/Explorers – Lower Hall side door
 - Adventurers – Lounge side door
- On arrival everyone will be asked to use hand sanitiser (please supervise your child in this) and we will be asking you to register for NHS Test and Trace.
- Please do not enter your child's group room. Instead, return around the outside of the building and enter church by the main entrance.

During the session

- Social distancing will be maintained where possible and sessions will be planned with that in mind.
- Children will be encouraged not to have physical contact with anyone not from their household.
- Leaders will aim to maintain a two metre distance from children, unless there is an emergency.
- If a child has hurt themselves or is in distress, the parent will be asked to take their child to the lobby to comfort them/give first aid.
- Children are to stay in their group rooms unless going to the toilet.

- There will be no singing/raised voices
- We will minimise the sharing of resources. Children will have individual craft equipment to use.
- Children will be encouraged to clean their hands where appropriate during the session (eg. after sneezing, before eating, after using the toilet).
- Biscuits will be served to children (once their hands are clean!) by leaders with gloves and/or tongs. We will not be serving drinks so please provide a water bottle for your child.
- We will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to ensure good respiratory hygiene. Tissues and bins available in all rooms.
- Leaders will not be wearing masks during the session, but will be encouraged to wear them when parents are dropping off/picking up

After the service

- Parents will be directed by the welcome team when they are able to leave their seat. Please leave the building by the main entrance and go round to the side doors to pick up children. Please do not enter the group room, your child(ren) will be called to the door when it is your turn to pick up.
- When picking up your child, please maintain distance from other families.
- A reminder that our social interaction should be kept to a minimum.

Extra notes

- Please bear in mind that government advice is for families to limit the number of settings their child attends each week, particularly if they live in a different locality. We will leave you to decide what this means for your family.
- We are able to welcome **3-4 year olds** if the child is confident to stay without their parent. If you think this might be an issue for your child then please get in touch - we could plan to include you as a helper for a week and brief you accordingly.
- There may be some weeks where groups hit their max capacity due to visitors. If this happens, we may ask some **year sixes** to sit in the main service for that week. If you have a child in year six please talk to them about that possibility and explain how exciting it would be to have extra children coming to church! Please get in touch if you have concerns about this.
- Please remember to **give your availability** in advance so that we can allocate the spaces for each service. We will let you know which services you are able to attend (hopefully most, if not all!).

For more information, please see Government Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings, which can be found [here](#).

Scramblers

explorers

