

# Today's *the* day



## cheeky cherubs

**Written for the children of  
Cheeky Cherubs before reopening**

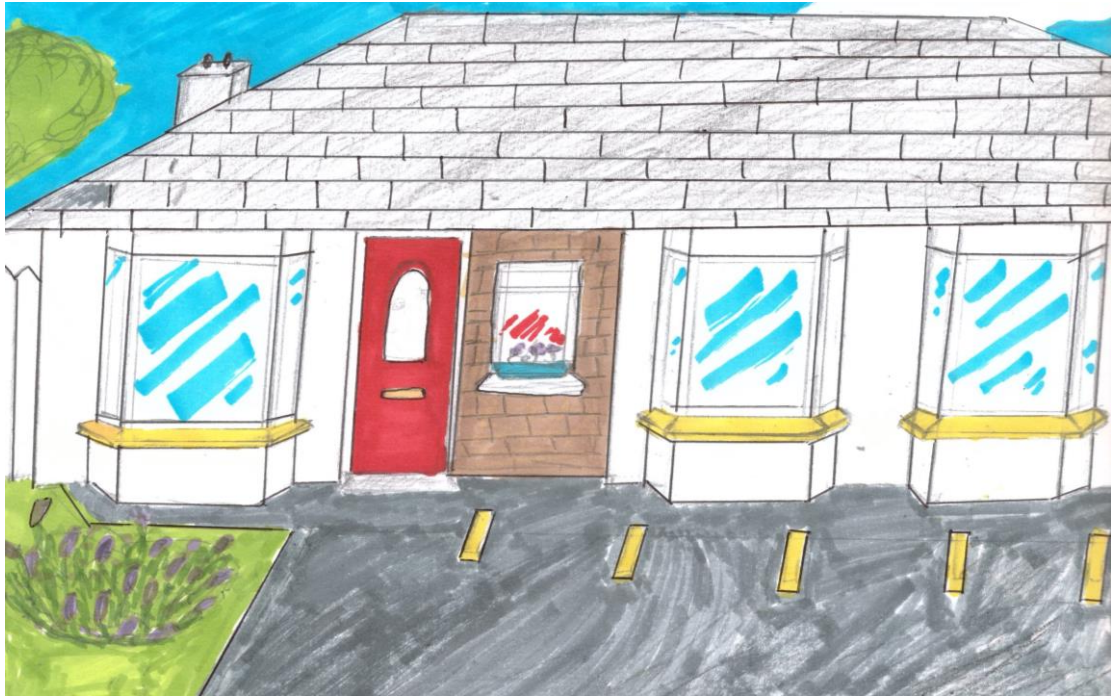
**Illustrated by Raquel & Suellen  
Written by Sarah**



## Today's the day

Aisling and Robbie are so excited, they get dressed quickly in their creche clothes and brush their teeth carefully. Today is a different day to the last few months. It's their first day back to school at Cheeky Cherubs, and away from their families. Daddy hands them their bag with their creche coat, clothes, shoes, and socks to bring to school. It feels like they are going on holidays. Mommy gave them a big hug and told them to have **fun**.





When they got to **Cheeky Cherubs** it looked so strange. All the mums and dads and the other children were all lined up two meters apart.

Robbie whispered, ***"I'm scared!"*** Aisling told him not to worry because they are going to be able to stay together all day with their friends, ***"It's going to be fun."***

When they got out of the car Robbie looked around for someone he knew. When he saw Claire, he got all shy and hid behind Daddy's legs. Aisling began to run because she saw her friends Hannah and Grace with their Mom. Daddy called her back and showed her the footsteps on the footpath where they must wait before she could play with her friends.



They jumped on each step as they got to the door. Nicola their teacher was there with a big smile,

***"Hello Robbie, hi Aisling! You've big gotten so big, I can't wait to hear all your news. But first we need to clean our hands and say goodbye to Daddy."***

Robbie looked at Daddy, who gave him an encouraging smile, and showed him how to sanitise his hands. Aisling did hers too.

When it was time to say goodbye Robbie stopped. It had been a long time since he had been away from Mummy or Daddy. He didn't think he could go. Nicola noticed him stop

***"I know it's hard Robbie, but you are very brave, wait 'til you see all the exciting things we have for you and your friends to play with."***

Aisling held Robbie's hand while they walked in through the new child sized archway.



When they went into their room, they saw some of their friends. As they looked around Aisling noticed something things were different, but she remembered most of the things she liked to play with as before. Nicola took their group on a tour around the room, then they all sat down together to share their news. Nicola and Tracey began to talk to everyone about all the important things they were all going to have to do from now on. Especially about how important washing their hands would be and how important putting their tissues into the bin after blowing their noses and sneezing. But most importantly Nicola told them not to be scared, she said

***"All the teachers in Cheeky Cherubs were working really hard to keep everyone safe and healthy."***



Robbie, Danny and Hannah went over to the blocks and started to play. But it felt strange at first because it was a long time since they had seen each other. They played by themselves for a while building three different creations. Hannah started to sing a song that they used to sing together before lockdown. Robbie liked hearing the song. Slowly their blocks began to get closer to each other. Soon they started talking about what they could make together.





Tracey gave them a five-minute warning and then it was time for snack. Everyone got up and went to different sinks to wash their hands. Instead of the fruit coming to the table on a sharing plate, Nicola gave them each a plate with their own fruit on it. This was different to before. Nicola reminded them that while sharing is nice, we cannot share our food or drinks with others for now.

After washing their hands everyone got ready to go outside. Aisling asked where were all the other boys and girls? Tracey said

***“Some of them some haven't come back yet, they will be here soon. When they do come back in September, we will be able to wave at them when we go outside.”***



Robbie saw the others in his group digging in the digging beds. He was still feeling unsure about things, so he put his hands up to Nicola. Nicola picked him up and they went and sit on a seat to watch the others playing. They watched Tracey help everyone find their groups box of tool to use in the digging area.

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He was still feeling unsure about things until he saw Nicola. He put his hands up to her. Nicola picked him up and they went and sat on a seat



to watch the others playing. They watched Tracey help everyone find their groups box of tool to use in the sand. After a cuddle he was ready to play again. Climbing in and out of the mud area and building crazy cities in the sand. All too soon it was time to go to get ready for lunch.





Once they went inside, they began to wash their hands again! Everyone sat and got their dinners served on their own plates rather than being able to serve themselves. After lunch Aisling and Grace sat on the couch to read and listen to mindfulness music while other children laid down in their beds to sleep. It was nice to have a little quiet time, it had been a long time since they had been so busy playing.

When they woke up it was time to wash their hands again and have their snack. Nicola had put out paint and paper for exploring. There was a lot of mess at the end but a lot of happy faces. Robbie looked up, "**Me happy**" as his face was covered in all the colours of the rainbow. Once everyone and everything was cleaned up Tracey suggested that while Nicola was on her lunch and Cathy would be with them, they could sit and look at their learning story books. They were so full of happy memories.





Everyone got ready to go out again after tea. They went to the grass area. They had to find their box with their symbol on it so that they could use the toys and tools that were only for them. When it was nearly time to go home everything had to be cleaned and put away again. Then they had to wash their hands again.

Aisling wanted to take her coat home, but Tracey reminded her that we have to keep it here so that she would be able to wear it again tomorrow. Everyone sat around talking about their day. Soon Cathy came to the door and said it was this groups turn to go out to the door to go home. ***"Why can't mommy come in, I want to show her my painting?"*** asked Hannah. Robbie listened as he wanted to know too.

***"We're trying to keep everyone safe from the virus so the less people that come into our room the better, I bet you families will be so excited to see all your work when they can come in."*** reassured Nicola.





Everyone went out and gave their families big hugs. Robbie asked, "Did you miss me mum?", as he threw his hands around her neck.

***"I helped stop the spread of the virus today, I washed my hands hundreds of times, I was sad I couldn't play with Luke and Reuben but I built a city with Grace and Hannah in the sand....."***

Robbie's mum smiled at Robbie as he told her all about his day, they both waved at Nicola and went towards their car.

***"Mum I want to come back tomorrow, can I, can I?"*** asked Robbie. ***"Yes Robbie"***, she said laughing,

***"Cheeky Cherubs is open for all the boys and girls to come back to play together, it's really exciting isn't it"***.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all very soon, from all your teachers in Cheeky Cherubs.



Dear parents,

We look forward to welcoming you and your child/ren back to Cheeky Cherubs.

We have created this social story to reassure your child for coming back in. While we know their days will be filled with laughter, learning and fun! We are expecting the moments of big behaviours, emotions, and confusion. As children communicate their big feelings of Separation, Anxiety, Traumatic Stress, and fears related to change in routine and environment, struggle with developmental regression.

This is not a typical transition and parents worries are valid. Utilize your existing relationship to listen to their concerns, describe what to expect about the new routines and procedures and ask them what best soothes their children so all the adults providing care are on the same page. Whether they would like a story, cuddles or a quiet moment.

Being sensitive and calm even in the face of big behaviours and emotions has the potential to help children regulate and integrate their experiences so they can grow up to be healthy adults and become more resilient when they are older.

We ask that you read through this story carefully, informing your child of all the changes that will be in place at arrival, during the day and for collection. We also wish to remind you to prepare for the big emotions at drop off and collecting. We are returning after a pandemic; we are likely to experience personal stress as well as anxiety.

We encourage you to mind yourself and your child in the evenings and weekends. We are predicting lots of tired children and adults with mixed emotions; down time is going to be extremely helpful at regulating emotions and ensuring a safe base for all children to return.

We ask that you help us to create a positive, fun, and calm drop off each morning. We will support you at each drop off and collection. We will continue to support your child during their time here.

As always, we are here to support and guide you through these new changes. We thank you for your continued support throughout these times.

The Cheeky Cherubs Management Team.