

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your help and co-operation this morning. Far fewer parents were staying after drop off and this allowed other parents and children to get more easily and safely to the gates.

It is really important that every part of the school community acts with empathy and understanding for others. Not just so that the many parents who have expressed anxiety about mixing unnecessarily within groups feel safe, but also as an example to the children as this is expected of them in school. Staff cannot 'police' this as this would mean school staff being put in a more vulnerable position and should there be an outbreak, as we have already seen at local schools, far more people being affected.

Each day we are going to tweak and improve systems as we notice ways to be more streamlined and efficient.

Drop off time in the morning is working well, from the point of view of the children arriving at school in a staggered way and today was already an improvement on yesterday in terms of both speed and the certainty of the children and staff.

By allowing the five minute interval between year groups, it allows the vast majority of parents to leave before the next year group and allows year groups of children to get into school before the next set of teachers come out. So we will stick to these timings.

Pick Up Times

The end of the day, yesterday, did not run as smoothly as the start, so we would like to help and remind parents of the set up.

At pick up times there is a one way system in use. Parents will be told by a member of staff when that year group is being collected and then **there should be a single line which smoothly enters through the gates we use in the morning and exits from the next gate up**. We will have signage to show the route today. Parents then collect from the pick up zone at the end of the line, take their children and then exit. It will mean patience but it is possible to get it done calmly in the time given, as long as parents from other year groups also stick to their times. **Please allow your children to come to you in the pick up zone, rather than go to them**. Staff are there to help you.

The timings remain so as an easy to remember time frame please be ready to collect at these times. Please do not arrive too early, please do not arrive late.

Year 1 and 2 – 2.45

Year 3 and 4 – 2.55

Year 5 and 6 – 3.05

As the days gone on, if pick ups continue to prove challenging we will have to find more creative ways of speeding it up, without compromising safety.

Siblings

A number of parents, in order to collect all their children at the same time have opted to collect at the time of their child with the shortest day. Brothers and sisters of each year group will now be waiting behind that year group, which will be clear as the one way system comes through and the older brother or sister will be visible in the area behind the year group being collected. I think this will further improve the system.

Pavements

Where possible, line up to drop off and collect nearest the fence to allow a flow of people to get by on the pavement, some people have been finding it difficult to get past.

One Parent

Wherever possible we ask that one parent collect. This drastically reduces the number of people on the pavement which makes it easier for all.

Masks

Management and social distancing is difficult, please wear a mask if you feel you cannot maintain social distancing and in order to keep others safe.

Thank you to all the parents who have written in with positive comments, with suggestions, information and indeed constructive criticism. We really are doing our best to try and make sure that things are as safe as possible, simply and for very obvious reasons, to avoid any outbreak at Parkwood, to protect the staff, the school community and most importantly the children and their families. The last thing we want to do is close classes, year groups or the school, which if everyone does their bit, even if it isn't ideal, I'm certain we can avoid.

Mr A Moir

Headteacher