

Dear Parents/Carers

Some final reminders and things to prep for ahead of Monday;

Your children need to arrive (with only one adult wherever possible) in the five minutes leading up to their start time. The start times were sent last week and all staff are aware of them, but here is a reminder.

- Foundation Stage (Main Gate) Arrive for 8.50, Collection at 2.50
- Year 1 (Main Gate) Arrive for 8.45, Collection at 2.55
- Year 2 (Lower Gate) Arrive for 8.45, Collection at 2.55
- Year 3 (Main Gate) Arrive for 8.40, Collection at 3.00
- Year 4 (Lower Gate) Arrive for 8.40, Collection at 3.00
- Year 5 (Main Gate) Arrive for 8.35, Collection at 3.05
- Year 6 (Lower Gate) Arrive for 8.35, Collection at 3.05
- We will not be altering times because of parent work commitments or siblings. This would be an impossible task and highly disruptive for learning.
- We would ask that parents drop off for one year group and then wait with the next one, if they have siblings. The fifteen minute staggered times will not be that much different to the times between Year 6 and Foundation Stage going in, pre pandemic, the only difference will be that this will be done off site.
- Some parents will not move and will wait in one place. This is a shame. We cannot police this, but we ask that parents are considerate of others and try to support others by following the expectations. As an example to the children, who will need to be following the school rules on lining up and social distancing.
- Please social distance as much as you can. Respect others and keep the people with you, close.
- Please don't bring dogs or smoke or vape in the line. Again, this is for the children's benefit.
- If it rains, the times will remain the same. We are following the government guidance and there are no exceptions made due to weather, so please do not contact the school asking why children could not be let in when it's raining.
- Wear a mask whenever you are in close proximity with other adults and whenever you are on the school site at collection time. This is to do all we can to prevent any re-spreading of the virus and to protect others.

- Children should be in school uniform unless you have contacted the school on an individual basis. Plain layers (such as an extra jumper or hoody) can be brought in on cold days, but should be in addition to school uniform.
- Children can bring packed lunch or have school dinner, as normal. For the latter we now have an online payment system via parentmail.
- Please be considerate about parking. Our local residents have been very supportive so please don't block drives or pavements.
- School bags can come in, but please only pack the same minimal amount (book folder, lunchbox, water) as before.
- Children may be anxious coming back to school and they may be upset. Staff cannot have contact with the overwhelming majority of children and we need to get each child in, every three seconds, so that all the children can be in on time. A clear path to the school, dropping and going and quick goodbyes, will make this possible. Please prepare your children for this quick goodbye.

The above list seems like a list of demands and moans. It isn't meant to be. As a school we have to have staggered starts, we have the area outside the school we have and we cannot have parents coming on to the site. We can't mix year group bubbles and we need to get 600 little people into the school and home as safely as possible, as well as an additional 45 pre-school children.

There is no way of doing this without it being a shock to the system, busy and potentially fraught with flashpoints and challenges. Day One will always be the hardest. Day Two, we will all be slightly more used to it and it should get easier throughout the term. Social Media doesn't help and for every view we have an opposite view of what should happen, we will just all do our best. If we all do our bit to do the best by others, we can manage the turbulence!

Most of all, we just want the children back in so that we can start to build them back towards school life as they know it, or as close as we can all safely get to that. It's been a very long journey, we've been through a lot and it feels like we're turning a corner, let's stick together (by following the rules and staying apart!) to make it work as well as it reasonably can.

Finally, to all those remote learning teaching parents at home. THANK YOU. I'm certain you will have mixed emotions today, but your days as primary school teachers working in your kitchens and living rooms are hopefully nearing an end. Our parent community should feel very proud this evening when the end of the day bell goes in all your houses.

Mr A Moir Headteacher