



24th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Junior Site update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement as our children have arrived back at school since the beginning of September.

For the most part, arrangements for dropping off and collection are working very well and the messages we have had are very positive. However, we recognise from one or two parents that there are some concerns around collection at the end of the day. Where possible we are able to make minor adjustments to improve our arrangements and very careful and detailed risk assessments have been conducted to explore the ramifications of any adjustments necessary. I'm sure you will appreciate that all possibilities and their potential consequences have already been considered. We also must also bear in mind new restrictions that arise at times for the whole local area.

The concerns that have been raised relate to collection at the end of the day and, in particular to the following:

- Keeping to the one way system of lining up and departing on opposite sides of the path
- Maintaining social distancing of 2 metres
- Parents not departing straightaway once children are collected or gathering in small groups
- Staff speaking to parents in the gateway and thereby obstructing the egress of children

Some parents have said that this makes them and those collecting, such as grandparents, feel unsafe.

Arrangements were put in place to support safe arrival and collection from school, including staggered entry and exit times and use of two gateways. Children have also been positioned carefully in their year group bubbles in different areas of the school grounds to enable a swift departure.

For these systems to work we are relying on everyone's cooperation and adherence to operating safely.

Please:

- Line up to collect your children at the planned times. We can understand that everyone wants to be ready for when children come out of school but if you are there too early then this creates congestion, particularly at the top of the path near to Buckingham Road
- Stay along the school fence side when waiting to collect children and
- Once you have your child please walk along the hedge side, leaving promptly
- Try to avoid bringing dogs along as this inevitably means more path space is taken up, especially if the dog is on a long lead. As lovely as your family friend is, they will not be popular with everyone. Others may swerve widely to avoid contact with the dog, getting into the path of those coming the opposite way
- Keep to the 2 metre distance from others
- Congregate to chat with others only when you get well beyond the path at the top in order to avoid narrowing the path for others

I have spoken to staff about blocking the gateway, it is important to answer parents' occasional questions but in these situations we will invite you to slip just inside the gateway for a moment.

Car parking

I've received communication from a parent who has expressed concern about unsafe parking on the area approaching school. They felt that their child was put at risk by poor driving and parking. I have written repeatedly in recent years about this issue and school has worked closely with the council to ensure that road markings are in place.

Please do not park on double yellow lines or white lines on Buckingham Road and near to school. Those markings were put in place as they were designated as risk areas and also to enable all pedestrians to travel safely. It is still illegal to pull up and park on those areas even for a moment while dropping off your child or collecting.

No convenience for parking near to school is worth the risk to a child's life.

With very kind regards and thanks for your support and cooperation,



Mrs K Morris

Headteacher

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