



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **SAFETY AT DROP OFF AND COLLECTION TIMES**

I just wanted to update you on how the first week back in school has been.

Firstly, I want to thank you ALL for returning your children to school. None of you have kept your child(ren) off school due to Covid 19 safety concerns, which I am so grateful for.

Secondly, the children have been wonderful! They have been so respectful, have already got into a routine after only three days, have followed the instructions and new rules, and have acted responsibly and safely. The only concern with regard to the children however, is the use of large bags. We are currently NOT using the cloakrooms, other than in Reception and Nursery, as this would mean classes mixing around the toilet areas, so presently coats and bags are in the classrooms. As you can imagine, this is causing problems particularly in the smaller classrooms. ***Please can I therefore ask that you do not send your child to school with a large bag.*** A small packed lunch bag and a flat green (or see through) book bag is better as these can fit easily into one box in the classroom. We will be sending books home next week, in a plastic book bag (if a green reading bag is not available) and this will be enough. All equipment is provided as we have given each child their own fully resourced pencil case.

Each day in school, we have been reviewing our arrangements; break times, choice of playgrounds, use of staircases etc., to ensure we minimise as far as we possibly can, contact between our class bubbles. In addition, we have created 4 separate staff rooms, as opposed to the one central staff room, to minimise staff mixing. At the moment, we have also avoided using the dining hall so we can keep this set up for our breakfast and after school clubs, and separate children from different classes from each other. We are currently reviewing this however, as we do not want to provide only packed lunch choices for our school dinner children. When we revert to hot dinners, we will let you know.

Presently, we only have two staggered start and end times, as creating a third would greatly impact upon parents who have more than one child. If all parents stick rigidly to these times, it will at least ensure that we only have parents from one year group at a time around any particular entrance; and only one parent remember is required. In addition, ***please would you leave as soon as you have handed your child over rather than watch and wait for them to go into school, as this is also causing crowding.***

I am also concerned about the proximity of parents to each other around the entrances. Guidance still encourages 2m as far as possible, but as parents pass by each other or gather



around the actual entrance (moreso at the front of school), this is often reduced. Of course this also happens in supermarkets and any other social space, but I feel ***the use of masks around the entrances, until you have moved away would greatly reduce risk to each other.***

With the forthcoming flu and cold season, I am sure this would be greatly appreciated by all of you. As soon as you have dropped off at the entrance and moved away, the mask can be removed. Some of our parents and grandparents are more vulnerable than others, and if masks are worn around the entrances, I am sure this will make everyone feel safer.

On Monday, we will look again at whether the use of masks around the entrances and parents becoming more familiar with the exact timings for drop off and collection, enhances the safety for you at these times. Feedback via our admin email is appreciated. Thank you to one parent who has already been in touch expressing some concerns. We are here to help and ensure you, our families, are happy and feel safe with our arrangements.

Should there be further concerns, we may have to increase the number of staggered start and end times. We will keep you updated.

Thank you as ever, for your support.

Kind regards,

*E M Allen*

Dr Elaine Allen

