



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

## IMPORTANT UPDATE

Dear parents/Carers,

Welcome back! A new school year has now begun, and I am pleased to report that so far, so good as far as the children are concerned. There are smiling faces in every class and many children have been keen to chat about the things they did during lockdown. They have reassured me that they were working hard at home and can still remember everything they had learned before they finished – let's hope they're right!

We are, however, having some issues with dropping off and picking up arrangements. Please bear with us – there is an element of trial and error involved as we work towards finding the most straightforward way of ensuring everyone's safety. The one thing we need more than anything else at this time is co-operation from you: we can only do so much alone.

Current, revised procedures are as follows:

### General Procedures

- Use the social distancing indicators along the school fence whilst waiting on Thorns Road
- Observe a 2m distance between yourselves and other parents where possible, and at least 1m if not. **Parents are responsible for their own social distancing!** It is not down to me or my staff to ask groups to separate: adults need to follow the guidelines for themselves.
- **Only one parent should drop-off and collect.** Please do not bring older siblings or come in couples. This reduces the number of people we have on and around our site.
- **Follow the one-way system.**
- **Wearing a face covering is desirable** (mask or visor), although you are outdoors and is therefore not essential.

### Morning Drop-off:

- **Reception and Key Stage 1** to be brought in through the **usual gate at 8.30am** where they can go straight into class. **Parents then need to leave straightaway**, following the arrows. Please do not hang around on the playground. If you also have children in Key Stage 2, you may leave them at the same time and areas for them to line up will be clearly identified. Staff will be on duty to ensure their safety. In this way, **ALL PARENTS FROM RECEPTION AND KS1 WILL HAVE LEFT THE PREMISES BY JUST AFTER 8.30AM.**
- **Key Stage 2 children need to be left at the gate by 8.45am. Parents must not come onto the playground.** They will be supervised by staff and must line up in their designated space to be taken into school at 8.45am. After leaving your child, please do not congregate on the pavement outside school watching them through the fence. We need to clear the area around school as quickly as possible as this is a public highway (I will come onto the crossing patrol in a minute).

### Afternoon Pick-up

- **Reception and Key Stage 1 children to be collected from their usual doors at 3pm.** Please observe the one-way system. If you have children in Key Stage 2, you will then have to wait on the playground for them to finish. I realise that this may be an inconvenience, but we have considered the options and do not feel there is a workable alternative at this time: safety comes first.

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Government guidelines state that we should stagger start and finish times where possible but this must be done without reducing the overall amount of teaching time. Some parents have contacted us to request further staggering, but I am aware that this could be an even bigger issue for some families, and has a knock-on effect for our curriculum provision and for things like after-school staff meetings and morning briefings. We discussed a variety of options again last night and felt that the current system is still the most manageable. You are advised to bring an umbrella and wear a suitable waterproof jacket.

- **Key Stage 2 children will be brought round by their class teachers and dismissed from a marked section of the playground.** Please **find a space on the playground and your child will come to you.** You will need to be patient; dismissal may take longer than usual, but again, please bear with us as we are doing what is deemed necessary in the interests of everyone's safety.

### Crossing Patrol

- I am currently 'in discussion' with the council about this. As it stands, there is no crossing patrol amidst concerns that the personnel cannot socially distance due to the narrowness of the pavement and the volume of people (hence my request to keep the area as clear as possible). I am not happy about this. Watch this space...

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your co-operation. Despite our best efforts and careful planning, it is only once we go 'live' that we can judge the success, or otherwise, of our mitigation measures. There will be amendments along the way, I'm sure, and you will be kept updated as necessary. I must stress again though that **much of the success depends on you.** The children are our priority, and whilst we keep disruption for you to a minimum where we can, unfortunately this will not be the ultimate deciding factor.

Thank you for your co-operation,

*R.L.Jordan*

Rebecca Jordan  
Head Teacher