

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been a successful week in school.

I have visited all classrooms several times to see staff working incredibly hard and happy, motivated children who are ready to learn and enjoying their learning.

Our School Governors have updated you on a number of useful things including our Key School Priorities for this year and that we have a full leadership team for our new wrap around care team.

Next week we will be reviewing our wrap around care provision and seeing what tweaks we can make to develop things a little further, particularly around morning provision. Keep your eyes open for further communication.

It was a shame that we have needed to move to packed lunches for KS2 pupils, but this was unavoidable for the many reasons already outlined. Things are now much better and more manageable and I have been impressed with the quality of and the quantity in the packed lunch on offer and the fact that a balanced diet of nutrients can be incorporated.

Morning drop off and entry to school. We are still having the occasional rush between 8:42 and 8:50. When we have a lot of people arriving at that same time it inevitably will slow things down as we move to the rear of the school before the flow speeds up again. It has been great to see everyone being kind and considerate, talking to the children about slowing down and leaving space for each other. Interestingly I did some timings for some who arrived at 8:42 and it seemed to be approx 6 to 8 minutes to complete the drop off and exit via the far gate, but for those who arrived at 8:55 it was as low as 2 minutes for a single drop off or 5 mins for a parent who had 3 pupils to drop off.

If we can ask those who do not need to rush to work, to delay arrival till 8:50 or 8:55 then I think this will help significantly.

On Thursday and Friday next week we would like to trial year 6 pupils to be able to enter the school site on their own. We feel they should be responsible enough to maintain distance, queue sensibly if they need to and once on site make their way directly to their class entry point. It will be essential as parents you brief your children and we will do the same. If however we have children queuing at gates from 8:30 or waiting to play together or not following our carefully practiced system, you will be contacted, with the potential of needing to go back to escorting your child on site. I am sorry if that sounds pedantic, but we need to be clear about the rules in this difficult climate.

Dogs Thank you so much for leaving your dogs at home or having a second person looking after your dog outside. Many people have commented on how much safer they and their children feel during the morning and evening.

PE and extra clothing We really like the routine we are in with wearing PE clothes on PE days and feedback says that you like it too! Wet days have thrown a small spanner in the works that can easily be rectified.

Obviously we are extra keen to deliver **outdoor** PE as much as possible (we do have an indoor option in emergency). But there is a risk of pupils getting caught in a rainshower or carrying on in light drizzle. We don't want children to sit in a wet top for the rest of the day.

So:

Please will you all provide a spare warm top that can be kept for the rest of the term in a named carrier bag in your child's locker in case of this happening.

Many thanks, as ever for your support. Don't forget to keep phones etc close at hand in case of last minute notices and have your children well prepared for colder and wetter weather at the start and end of the day.

Have a great weekend.

Chris Evans