



Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Returning to School – Reviewing our arrangements – brief update

It has been wonderful to have all our classrooms full again and we have been delighted with how our school day has been working once the children are all in. We are so impressed with how sensible the children are being and the resilience and independence they are showing.

I am sure you can appreciate that to plan for the full re-opening adhering to ever changing government guidance has been quite the task! Plans should always be reviewed to ensure that they are working and I just wanted to write and let you know that we have been looking very carefully at how things have gone yesterday and today.

I will be writing again to confirm whether we will stick with the access arrangements as stated in the Parent Handbook or whether changes need to be made. In the meantime, please note the following:

- It was extremely busy yesterday but we saw that several children were dropped off and collected by more than one parent/carer. While we understand that after the period of school closure and during such unprecedented times, both parents would have wanted assurances about how things would work, but this only made for more crowded areas. It is imperative that only one parent collects please.
- A number of parents did not know which class their child is in and therefore when classes were called on the gates, there were queries which caused crowding (especially at the Radcliffe Gardens Gate) – it is more difficult for us to help you without important information such as this. Similarly, a number of parents did not appear to know the correct times for their child and told us they had not read the Handbook.
- The three staggered times in operation are designed to support social distancing. Although we recognise that some parents have more than one child and so have to wait for the different times, we ask that those with only one child do arrive at the specified time and not too early or late.
- The playground was incredibly busy at the end of the school day but as referred to above, we have always seen that this is the case during the first few days of any school year. Our Year 5s and 6s often start to walk home alone once their parents have collected them a few times and ensured they know the route to walk home so this will relieve the congestion.



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- The Parent Handbook did ask that parents with more than one collection time do leave via Beanos and come back in the Radcliffe Gardens Gate; the plan being that the continual one way movement of people would prevent crowding of the playground. However, not all parents are doing this. It could be that this is because there is plenty of room in the playground to remain. And of course, we do not want to make the grass area outside over crowded. So it is probably best if parents use their judgement on this.
- The busiest time appeared to be the 3.20pm pick up where Year 3 and 4 parents understandably congregated in the upper area of the playground. Again, this is probably because it was the first week and parents need to know where their child's classroom is. But to ease congestion, it would be helpful if parents spread out and arranged a meeting point in the playground as at this time the infant playground (opposite the Year 1 outside area) was very clear.
- Maple Class parents – please note that Mr Shaw and Mrs Nutley dismiss the class from the top of the hall stairs. Therefore it is best for you to wait on the Infants playground.
- Apologies that things weren't helped today by one of our classroom clocks being wrong and one class coming out late!

We recognise that this staggered drop off and pick up does have its challenges and so I want to assure you that we are taking a proactive approach in observing how things are going and making adaptations when required. I am sure you will understand that we need to see how things are working before making any changes too quickly. But for this to be successful and to ensure that our whole community remain safe and well, we do need all parents to follow our procedures and adhere to social distancing. Please be very mindful not to gather in groups, especially along Harbury Road to enable others to pass.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards



Mrs Louise Wood

Headteacher