

IMPORTANT . . . CRITICAL . . . URGENT!

Please do read all of the below.

We all know now that the second wave of Covid-19 infection is upon us. The government are really ramping up precautions in an attempt to avoid lockdown. Accordingly, we need to 'ramp up' things too. To avoid drastic measure being imposed on our school and/or community, we must all do our bit!

It is far too easy for individuals to get into the mind-set "*The rules don't apply to me,*" or think, "*Well, I haven't got coronavirus, so it doesn't matter.*" If everybody thought this way, we would see more infections and more deaths. It is this sort of self-centred, selfish attitude that puts us all at risk and will result in deaths.

As a school, compared with other schools in the area, we have got off lightly, so far (I'd like to think that some of this is due to our care and diligence). However, we are not immune!

Virtually all parents have been brilliant and supportive and most considerate (thank you). Sadly, we have had one or two parents who have not been this, endangering our whole community, obstinately determined that the rules do not apply to them or, just, "I'm not going to follow the rules." Like many people, I have an aging mother. She has a debilitating condition. If she catches Covid-19, she will die, and, it is through the selfishness (and dare I say callousness) of these ignorant individuals that this will happen for many like my mum.

Parents have no legal right to be on any school site. Schools have the right to enforce a ban. It is only because of a lasting 'open invitation' that parents are allowed on school sites at all, which, being a welcoming school, we would want to continue with. However, if we become aware of anyone ignoring our expectations, we may have to withdraw the invitation for that individual.

Our expectations are these, which all parents should be aware of, and everybody needs to stick to them:

- Respect our pedestrian one-way system around the school at pick-up at the end of the day (some parents are slipping out through the KS2 gate or coming in via the KS1 gate - this is not allowed).
- No parking on site (save for blue badge holders). Still some parents are slipping in early and parking up in the morning or afternoon (if you are a culprit, do not be surprised if you get a knock on your car window from Mr Mace or Mr Hutt or myself - it is a PRIVATE car park).
- Do wear a mask on site (unless you have a condition that prevents this).
- Do observe social distancing (this is the one quite a few parents are not doing) and do not approach a member of staff to discuss things unless it is absolutely critical/urgent (email/phone, only, please).
- Do stick to the strict timings of drop-off/pick-up (if children are late to school, they will be turned away).
- If there's the slightest suspicion that your family have been infected by Covid-19, you must keep children at home and let us know

I make no apologies for the tone of this letter (the tone is aimed at those who break the rules). This is my fourteenth year as headteacher of The Coppice, a position I treasure. In that time, as any longstanding parent knows, I have hardly ever (if ever) given such a firm message (my default is to be friendly and welcoming), but, desperate times need desperate measures.

We love our school, we love having our children back - please help keep us open!

Bill Heptinstall

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