

Update: School Coronavirus-related procedures

04.09.20

Dear parents/carers,

I think it is best by starting by making the point that a limiting factor regarding decisions we have made has been feeling the need to stick to government advice. Part of this is about restricting access to the school site. Hopefully, this will make you appreciate why we have operated in the way we have and the very difficult compromises we have had to make. We have had suggestions and feedback from parents (thank you) which goes against this advice (e.g. allowing parents through the gates). I hope this puts you in the picture and helps you understand the difficulty we have been in. A lot of time has been spent on things, nothing has been done without trying our best to think it through carefully.

We can hardly be blamed for trying to follow advice that is seen as 'best practice'. However, sometimes common sense has to prevail, and, at the end of the day, the guidance from government is just 'advice'. Now, having given things a go, we think things need to be adapted to our context. We have said that the procedures were 'untested', and, having 'sucked and seen', we appreciate changes need to be made (something we said would happen from the outset).

We have had so much positive feedback (particularly via Facebook), thank you. However, we have also had some complaints and criticism (as well as the constructive advice mentioned). A lot of this has come via email, so, rather than respond to all the individual emails, I hope this letter will suffice.

Overwhelmingly, our perception is that parents are trying their best (lots of facemasks are now evident as well as best attempts at social distancing - thank you). However, we still have isolated incidents of parents/carers burying their heads in the sand. I appreciate that, medically, some parents/carers cannot wear masks, but there are still a significant number of parents without them (please do wear a mask if you are able to). Today we even learnt of a parent who had returned from a restricted country (on Sunday) and sent their child to school without self-isolating for 14 days. This sort of behaviour is selfish (already, it has affected a family who now need to shield for 14 days, disrupting the parents' work and the children's schooling, potentially, it could impact on the whole year group). Needless to say, we have taken a very firm line.

With what we do, we are also following the Local Authority Standard Operating Procedure. This says that parents should not be told of suspected cases that might affect their children's class unless a positive test result is forthcoming (I think the idea is not to worry families unnecessarily). We will, of course, use some discretion with this, particularly regarding families that we know have clinically extremely vulnerable members (as mentioned above).

It goes without saying, sharing of information is VITAL in the current climate and families must inform us IMMEDIATELY if there is any suspicion of Covid-19 infection in their family.

Revised logistics for pick-up/drop-off are below. I would remind parents to try their best to spend as little time on school site as possible when doing this (basically, drop/pick-up and go!). Also, you must stick strictly to the timings, and only one parent/carer linked to each family on site at one time, please.

Again, we thank you for your continuing cooperation during these difficult times.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND COLLECTION SEPT 2020

DROP OFFS:

Morning drop offs are working well and we will continue this in the same way.

Nursery (Big nursery gate @ 8.30am / 8.45am)

Reception (External classroom doors 8.30-8.45am)

Year 3 (KS1 gate @ 8.30am)

Year 1 (KS1 gate @ 8.40am)

Year 5 and 6 (KS2 gate @ 8.20am) Two designated lanes for drop off and entry to school.

Year 4 (KS2 gate @ 8.30am)

Year 2 (KS2 gate @ 8.40am)

Please stick to these times and stand back allowing children and parents with earlier slots to have easy access to the gates.

COLLECTION: YEARS 1 - 6

All collection times will remain the same as the original plan and must be strictly adhered to, to avoid congestion and aid social distancing.

There will be a **one-way system** in place with parents initially entering the site through the gate on Shawhurst Lane (by the bungalow), then entering via the KS2 gate. Parents make their way to their child's classroom (**as indicated on the attached plan**) and wait in the year group bubble until your child is safely handed over. (Please keep younger siblings with you and do not allow them to run around and mix with other waiting bubbles.) Once your child has been collected, please continue with the one way system, heading from the KS2 playground to the KS1 playground, **exiting the school site via the KS1 gate (by the side of the church)**. You then make your way down the side of school (avoiding any waiting Nursery parents) and out through the gate adjacent to the barrier.

NB: Year 1 and Year 2 parents need to be particularly aware of each other's waiting bubbles and keep apart. Year 1 parents will leave via the KS1 gate with their children but we ask that **Year 2 parents leave via the Reception gate** to avoid crossing other waiting parents.

If you have more than one child to collect and have an **older child in Year 5 or Year 6**, we ask that you do not walk back against the one-way system instead, your older child from Year 5 or Year 6 will be waiting to be collected from the blue, Junior Hall door, where there will be designated waiting area for you. (Year 5 and Year 6 children without younger siblings should be collected from the classroom as normal and follow the one-way system).

Children from Year 5 and Year 6 who have permission to walk home will also be released from the hall door so they have direct access to the exit gate by the barrier.

COLLECTION: NURSERY & RECEPTION

Collection points and times will not be changing but we ask that parents of children being collected from Nursery at 2.45pm and Reception classrooms at 3pm **will need to enter school via the gate by the barrier** and wait in the usual designated areas to collect your child. When leaving the site, exit via the gate by the barrier.

When collecting Nursery children at 3.15pm, please enter the site via the main gate (by the bungalow) and make your way across the front of school to the nursery waiting area. Once your child has been collected please leave via the gate by the barrier, exiting directly onto Shawhurst Lane.

If you also have an older sibling to collect, then they will need to be collected using the one-way system as explained above.

