

Headteachers Newsletter

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear parent/carers,

Thank you for the words of support and best wishes that we have received last week; they have been much appreciated after a summer spent planning our full re-opening. Bringing back all of our 352 pupils whilst ensuring we are following all the ever-changing guidance and keeping everyone as safe as possible has been a challenge but seeing how happy your children were to be back in school made all the hard work worthwhile. Your children were amazing, following all procedures and learning all the new routines. The school was a calm and happy place, full of smiles! I did an assembly on Friday (virtually of course) and asked the children what they have enjoyed most about being back in school. Each class shared something and the main responses were being back with their friends, teachers and learning.

Our attendance rate last week was a fantastic 99%, which compares very favourably with the start of term in previous years. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in the school. It is only when you put your plan into action that you understand where the pinch points may occur. Thursday and Friday allowed us to identify these so we can address them.

There are a few points I need to highlight and refer to:

1. **Parents accessing the school site at the start of the day** - the school gates will not open until 8.30am, please do not arrive before this time. To ease congestion and queuing, I have spoken to Meon Infant school who will be implementing changes to prevent their parents queuing past our entrance.

2. **Parents Accessing the School Site at the end of the day** –
 - a. In school we have been using our value of respect to emphasise the need to be respectful of social distancing. When on the playground and queuing to leave the site, parents **must** ensure they adhere to social distancing. Having a large group of people in one space can be quite scary for members of our school community and we all need to ensure everyone feels safe and comfortable. I need you to be patient whilst waiting and ensure you do not step into anyone's space. I would encourage you to wear face coverings during this time.
 - b. I received a report that some parents were vaping on the playground and a dog had been brought onto school site. I would like to remind you that this is strictly prohibited. Anyone seen doing this will be asked to leave and could be at risk of being banned from the school site.
 - c. **When you are waiting with younger children for older siblings in year 5 or 6, you must keep your children with you.** On Friday, children were playing in groups unsupervised. This put us at risk of our bubbles mixing. We are working incredibly hard in school to ensure our year group bubbles remain separate and need your help at the end of the day to support us with this.

- d. I am aware that there is some queuing to leave the site after the years 3 and 4 collection. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable with the amount of people leaving at the same time. I did notice that Friday it was quicker than Thursday. Can I remind you that only one adult should be coming onto the site to collect pupils.
 - e. **Parents of year 5 and 6 pupils should enter the playground by the Crofton road gate at 3:10pm when it opens. Please do not arrive earlier and come through the Shelford road gate as this will prevent parents of year 3 and 4 pupils leaving safely.** Year 6 pupils who are walking home or meeting parents off site will exit through the garden gate on Meon Rd.
 - f. Can I politely ask that parents of pupils in **4D** wait to the right of the classroom at the end of the day and do not block the main entrance into the playground.
 - g. Can parents of children in **4C** wait on the grass area so that they do not block the main entrance into the playground.
3. Pupils walking home – Year 6 pupils are permitted to walk home from school. All other year groups will require consent from parents to be able to do this. To give consent either complete this online form or contact the school office:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJX8GCY2FiVCu_krRF5ct_CdUM1pBSTdQOTFNSEZWV0VZWVNUFk5WlQ1US4u

4. **Be on time for drop off and collection:** this is critical at the moment as lateness causes disruption to our new procedures.

Alongside this newsletter today you will be receiving the Parent Handbook for reopening. I have put all the information that I have been sharing with you about school reopening in one place as well as additional information that you may want. It is a working document and will be updated as we review and adjust rules and procedures. I will re-share and highlight any changes as they happen.

Thank you again for helping us all return to school smoothly and safely. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or feedback you may have.

Warm Regards

Mrs Sara Paine