



Headteacher: Mr M Carter-Tufnell

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your warm welcome to the school. It has been lovely to talk with many of you and to meet your children.

As with my 'Welcome to the new school year' letter on Wednesday, we will continue to try and give you all the information that you need without 'drowning' you in letters and with messages on Class Dojo.

I have noticed that at the start of the school day some parents are wanting to come into classes and to have conversations, of more than a polite hello etc, with staff. The best time to talk to staff is at the end of the school day. At the start of the school day they must focus on seeing all their class are safe in the classroom, settled and starting to learn. It is impossible for them to do this if a parent is trying have a longer conversation with them. Parents are not to come into classes – this is a part of our risk assessment. Parents are welcome to arrange to speak with teachers at the end of the day. I thank parents, in advance, for their understanding and support with these two matters.

New headteachers always bring fresh eyes to a school and therefore some change. We are going to proceed with the two changes I outline below, having had some positive responses from parents and from staff when I have discussed these changes with them.

Firstly, we are going to ring a bell:

1. When classroom doors open in the morning, for children to come into school, 8.40am.
2. When the doors close for morning registration, 8.55am. Please note that after this time, children must go to the school office to come into school and they will be marked as late in the register.
3. At 3pm to mark that it is home time and the classroom doors are about to open.

Please be patient with colleagues if your child does not come out at exactly 3pm. As parents, we know what it can be like to get a few children out of the house, on time and with everything that they should have – imagine having a classful of children to do this with.

Secondly, for children in years 5 and 6, Mrs Stringer's class, we are going to introduce an option that parents may choose to use at home time. Parents will have the option to:

1. Collect their child, as usual, from the playground near the classroom.
2. Have their child walk to them, on the school site.
3. Have their child walk home.

Cont/2

This approach will give more flexibility for parents collecting children from more than one classroom and, if parents want it, it gives our older children an opportunity to become a little more independent. This opportunity to become a little more independent could be used to help children become prepared for the greater levels of independence they will need when at secondary school. Next week, a letter will be sent to parents, of children in Years 5 and 6, so that they can tell us what option they want to choose.

Today, all children are being given a passport of activities. This has been produced by the trust that we belong to. There is a letter, for parents, to explain everything they need to know about this passport which has been posted on Dojo.

The current situation means that children can not use the water fountain we have. I, therefore, remind parents and children that children may bring in water bottles from home and that this must be named. At lunchtime we are going to make sure that children can have their water bottle refilled, if they want and it is needed.

Some time ago, the school booked the photographer for Monday of next week, 7<sup>th</sup> September. We are going to continue this in a 'COVID-secure' way. The photographer will be in the hall. He will mark a 2M perimeter in the hall so he is distanced from the children. When not in that area, he will wear a mask and gloves. Surfaces that children may touch will be cleaned. Staff will supervise the children. Children will be able to have individual and sibling/family photographs with other children attending the school and nursery. I am afraid that photographs with other family members can not take place on this occasion. I know that is disappointing but I am sure we all agree that a 'safety first' approach is the best one.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Carter-Tufnell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Carter-Tufnell  
(Headteacher)