

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are at the end of our first full week in school and again I am very appreciative of our community efforts to ensure as many children and staff as possible can come to school. Whilst we are making great efforts to help the return to school to be as normal as possible, we do have to accept that these are not normal times and our 'normal' is no longer that. With this in mind, I thought it would be useful to share with you the changes we have made in our school day and gain your support for these changes.

**New Social Gatherings Rule** - I am very grateful that this week the majority of our families are collecting their children and leaving the school site promptly without the need to socially gather in the playground. As from Monday this will be needed even more so.

**School gates** - The gate leading into the Key Stage 1 playground can become very busy at times with people entering and leaving at the same time. Please do also use the gate outside the Year 6 classroom as that will lead you to the front of school for exit via Arran Way. This will certainly help congestion especially if collecting from Year 2 onwards as it will be akin to a one way system.

**School curriculum** - There are some changes to the curriculum *delivery* but not to the content or quality of the curriculum. For example, visitors to the school and trips out which would normally support and enhance our curriculum are limited now by social distancing expectations. However, where we can carry out a trip or support a visit to school we will do so. Swimming is not taking place this term.

**Meeting with school staff** – A significant change to the normal school day is that teachers are unable to meet with parents at the end of the school day at the door or in the classroom as they would have pre Covid-19. Teachers also have a great deal of additional work now at the end of the school day as that is the main time to mark books, organise work for the next day and try to liaise with others in the teaching team as well as review the progress of the children. For this reason, I am asking families to be mindful of making requests to speak to the teachers unless it is imperative as this does absorb quite a lot of their time. There is a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes in school even though we are trying very hard to present as normal for the sake of our children. The admin team can give messages to teachers if you email them in. The teacher will then address the content of the message. In the vast majority of the time, this is all that is needed. The teachers will respond appropriately if a response is needed which may be via the office team. You can also let teachers know about anything additional with your child by sending your child in with a note just so the teacher is aware. Please be assured that if your teacher has anything significant to share with you about your child they will still do so.

**Covid-19 symptoms** – As a school we have to adhere to the strict government health guidelines that state if your child or anyone in your household displays any of the Covid-19 symptoms then a test should be sought and the rest of the household must self-isolate. Thus if one of your children presents with a temperature, for example, a test should be sought for that child and any other children in the household should not come into school. If the test returns as normal then anyone with no symptoms or illness can return to school as normal. I fully appreciate that testing is proving difficult to book but I would urge families to continue to try booking online at different times of the day so that a test can be arranged as soon as possible.

**Face masks in Primary Schools** – The government has decided (not my decision) that face masks should not be worn by children and staff at primary schools. As a local authority maintained school, we have to adhere to government policy. Whilst many children have seen adults wearing masks in the community, certainly our younger children can be fearful of people wearing masks particularly if unfamiliar with the adults. Only children in secondary schools, and then only in corridors/enclosed/communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain, are permitted to wear face coverings.

I am trying to make myself available as much as I possibly can but I would appreciate your patience if I am unable to make immediate appointments to speak with any of our families. I have asked my admin team to prioritise urgent requests of a confidential nature or safeguarding concerns.

I thank you all for your support and I look forward to us all working together to keep our school and classes open.

Kind regards,



Mrs K Daniels