

Review of the first day back – Update

After all the waiting we were finally all back and what a pleasure it was. I have been delighted with the way the children have returned to school – we had a brilliant day with lots of smiles. I was particularly impressed with the way the new children from year 3 and throughout the school managed on their first ever visit to the school! As ever, the children lead the way in resilience and adaptability.

Across the school day, the children followed the expectations to the letter and this will no doubt help us to get back to a new normal. They even did some quality work!

Thank you to everybody at the beginning of the day as with over 160 brand new children this was always going to be a challenge but everybody did the right thing.

At the end of the day, we knew it was going to be a challenge and it proved so! There will be no perfect way and in fairness, the layout of the road and the school does not facilitate safe egress. However, we want to attempt to devise a solution that maintains a safe environment and is manageable for parents. Next week we will be trialling a year group by year group approach to leaving:

Year 3 2:30 p.m. finish (As it was today and planned for next week)

Year 4 2:40 p.m. finish

Year 5 2:50 p.m. finish

Year 6 3:00 p.m. finish

It is quite possible this will not resolve the issue but we must try a range of solutions.

To help us get the best from this system we would request from parents that you:

- (1) Step away from the entrance after collection even if you have another child to collect
- (2) Only come to the gate at the appointed time to avoid congestion
- (3) Arrange a pick up point with your children away from the gate if you can
- (4) Make sure the children know that they can stay with a teacher if they are unsure where their parent or person picking them up is – there will always be someone there for them
- (5) Make arrangements for brothers and sisters if the leaving times are different – we saw some really good arrangements today which really helped. They can stay in the school grounds with a teacher whilst waiting if that helps.
- (6) Adhere to government guidelines with regard to social distancing – much as we are responsible for many things, we are not responsible for adults on the highway

Also bear in mind that there will be a large number of staff around who will keep your children safe with them if required.

One final point I would like to make is that we are nice human beings who are trying to do their best in very challenging circumstances. Government guidelines place many restrictions on our practice and is not always consistent with common sense! However, please be assured that we always want the best for your children and will continue to do so.

We will review the arrangements across the week and keep you informed of our decisions.

Best Wishes Dr Jones

04.09.20