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6 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to clarify the reasons behind the decision taken yesterday to ask all children to now be dropped off and collected by an adult. This is a **temporary measure** to fall in line with the national lockdown. There have been an increasing number of children, who come to and from school unaccompanied and although some have not behaved very well, this decision is based on their inability to socially distance from other year groups/families. Many of the children do behave impeccably but do not always socially distance themselves from other year groups/families. After all, they are only children, which is why during these challenging times we ask for your support in supervising your children whilst on the school grounds by keeping them next to you.

I apologise for the short notice that you received yesterday and I would like to thank so many of you who once again, did your very best to support the decisions of the school. Please can I assure you that the decision was not taken lightly and was from a health and safety point of view and with the intention of keeping our children and the community as safe as possible at the heart of this.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with all of the decisions that we have taken in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible. The fact that thankfully, as of yet, we have had no positive cases of COVID in school is a credit to all the efforts and measures that have been put in to place. For example, we have reviewed our risk assessment once again, and have ensured that there is almost no movement of adults in school between year group bubbles. As per the government guidance, the children cannot sit 2 metres apart in the classrooms, as the rooms in all schools are simply not big enough. However, all measures that are stipulated in the government guidance are followed, such as encouraging social distancing on the school grounds, which again is why we have taken this decision to ask for your supervision to work towards this. We know that accompanying your children to and from school has caused many of you to have additional challenges but we hope that you understand the reasoning behind this. Once again, we urge those that are able to, to walk to school rather than drive to alleviate the congestion on Harehedge Lane. We know all too well of the challenges of this road and we continue to do all that is in our power to improve this, for example, working with the council and the parking enforcement officers to 'police' the illegal and dangerous parking that occurs. Please be assured that the only cars that are allowed on to site are those of staff members from both schools and those children who have SEND or medical needs and this has been pre-arranged with one of the schools.

As you are all well aware, we are in unprecedented and challenging times as many of our families know all too well and appreciate that some of you are battling through some very difficult times. In turn, I am sure you can appreciate what an amazing job my team do to ensure your children and your family are safe, well, and happy, whilst some have their own battles in their personal lives through this pandemic. Through these troubled times, it is increasingly important to look out for one another and be kind! It is for this reason that I implore you, as many of you have, that if you have any concerns or issues with the school that you would like to share, that you do this through the formal channels of communication and in an appropriate manner. It is important that we provide our children with an appropriate model of behaviour and conduct.

Thank you once again for all of your support – it really is very much appreciated! It really does help to do a job that is becoming increasingly challenging, a little bit easier.

With very best wishes

J.Cutbush

Mrs Joanne Cutbush, Headteacher, and the Senior Leadership Team

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs J. Taylor & Mrs S. Clamp

