



October 19th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to send an important reminder about staggered start and finish times and general safety.

Arrival

1. Key Stage 2 with no younger siblings arrive 8.45-8.55
2. Key Stage 2 with younger siblings arrive 9.00-9.15
3. EYFS and Key Stage 1 with no older siblings arrive 9.00-9.15

For example, if you have a child in year 3 and 5 both should arrive between 8.45 and 8.55

If you have a child in year 2 and 4, both should arrive between 9.00-9.15

If you have children in EYFS and year 2, both should arrive between 9.00-9.15

It is important that everyone sticks to these times to ensure we are able to manage numbers arriving and leaving school.

Leaving

1. Key Stage 1 and EYFS with no key stage 2 siblings leave 3.00-3.15
2. Key Stage 1 and EYFS with key stage 2 siblings leave at 3.25-3.30
This avoids any children having to wait outside. From Monday 19th October teachers will not send children out from key stage 1 who have key stage 2 siblings so please for your own convenience do not arrive until this later time.
3. All Years 3 and 4 leave at 3.25
4. All Years 5 and 6 leave at 3.30

We have made individual arrangements with some parents to release key stage children early and these arrangements will remain but otherwise can I ask that everyone sticks to the above times. Understandably, with 30 children to get ready, lost jumpers, lunchboxes and water bottles we are occasionally a little late but we are trying to be as prompt as possible. Please be patient with us. There is a lot to organise and these continual tweaks are important.

Due to rising numbers and following consultation with local Head Teachers and the Local Authority from Monday 19th October we will be adjusting our risk assessments to keep each class pod segregated from other classes as much as possible. We have been doing this inside but this will be expanded to include playtimes too. We have a great safety record but with rising numbers it is the right time to stop classes mixing at break times too. It will also mean that sports clubs after school will be for specific classes from next term. Like all schools, we are required to review and adjust our risk assessment in response to the changing situation and this is the right time for us to do so.

Face Masks

Thank you to so many of you who have returned their survey on the wearing of face masks and especially for your many and varied comments. The results are so far overwhelmingly in favour of parents wearing face masks (around 92%)

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Lots of you have included some useful comments – thank you so much. I thought you would be interested to hear the key concerns parents have raised which are the ones we have written to you about several times over the term:

- Families not leaving promptly
- Children running around and mixing with other classes
- Congestion by the gate with people not moving away swiftly

Again, following consultation with some local schools and the overwhelming support recorded in our parent survey, from Wednesday 21st October we ask all parents to wear a face mask on school grounds at pick up and drop off and until you are clear of the crowds around the gate. As many of you have said, we do have a wide space out the front and we also know risks are significantly lower outside but we also know how hard some of you find it to socially distance with so many children and parents together at one time, particularly near the gates. This is in part the result of the lack of entrances we have into school but also many of you have talked about this in your responses. **Clearly, if you are medically exempt you are not required to wear a mask and we would also like to stress that we cannot enforce this – we are just requesting that parents support us by doing so.** We would ask parents not to approach other parents who choose not to do so. If you are concerned about people who are continuing to not socially distance, I would ask you to come and talk to me about this and I will address with people individually. Staff will not wear face masks when receiving children at the classroom doors in EYFS and year 1 but all staff will wear masks if they are coming outside to mix with families or talk to parents at the end of the day.

Finally, we will be strictly enforcing vehicles without blue disabled badges driving onto the school grounds at any time. We still have a few parents who are doing this even after repeated reminders and requests and this is increasingly dangerous as many more families and children are using both gates to avoid contact with other families.

We do understand that these rules seem draconian and they are totally not how we want our school to be run but as ever, safety is paramount and these are not normal times. Can I stress that all decisions made have the safety of all our school community at heart: you, your children, your wider family and our staff and governors. We are anxious to remain fully open to support our children and families and as many local schools begin to have to send classes home to self-isolate, it seems right to tighten these systems up again. Although I do agree that school has a responsibility to try to enforce these arrangements, I also feel that as individuals we have to do what we can to help and we hope everyone sees the wisdom of this guidance. The amended risk assessment will be on the web site from Tuesday.

Thank you for your continued support for your own children and our school. We do appreciate the huge efforts you are all making at this difficult time.

Anne Sargent

Scott Pells

Head Teacher

Chair of Governors



Little Stoke Primary School

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