

21st October 2021

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Car Park – Important Notice

As we are always looking at our school improvement plan and safeguarding procedures within school and the surrounding area, we have decided to trial, for a period of two weeks from Tuesday, 2nd November closing the school gates from 1:00pm until 2:45pm. During this closure parents/carers will not be permitted to arrive before 2:45pm and park in the car park to wait for end of school procedures to start at 2:50pm/3:00pm.

For visitors, deliveries and parents who have an appointment, a prior agreed early collection or been asked to come into school only, a notice will be placed on the gate providing the details of the site team and office to allow access. Anyone who comes onto site without permission during this trial period will be asked to leave the school premises. The pedestrian gate will remain open.

We have been considering the safety of our school perimeter for some time now and in-line with numerous other schools feel that having the vehicular gates open all day could present a safeguarding weakness in our otherwise robust protocols.

In addition to the safeguarding of our pupils, the school car park has been used by parents who have parked all day and left the site, which means that staff and others coming into school for meetings, to deliver therapy and/or training have been unable to park within the school grounds. We have been working very hard to improve our relationship with the wider community and our neighbours; parking is the one area we have been working on and therefore it is unacceptable for anyone to use the school car park for their own personal parking.

As a consequence of this trial, we are asking that parents/carers do not arrive for pickup until 2:45pm to avoid queuing on the road and causing unnecessary congestion by arriving too early. We will be working with the local authority and anyone causing an obstruction could be asked to move. Once the gates open at 2:45pm our transport team will direct traffic. As you are aware, we have been tweaking our transport arrangements regularly since our return to pre-Covid school times, and this is another step in our plans.

We thank you for your co-operation in not blocking the highway and surrounding areas and we will, of course, consult with you further once this trial period has ended. Thank you for your support.

Please note Monday 1st November is a Staff Development Day – pupils return to school on Tuesday 2nd November.

Yours faithfully



Jill Palmer
Principal