

17th December 2020



Dear parents/carers,

Ref: School Start and End Times

We received some complaints on Friday 4th December regarding the staggered start times and how it is not convenient ***because of the weather. The weather is something out of our control!*** Please note that we had to put these times in place because of a number of reasons already shared with you. We have been very fortunate by being one of a handful of schools in this Local Authority with very minimal cases of covid-19 and I feel the measures we've put in place to keep 'bubbles' separate whilst children are in our care, has helped with this; 'bubbles' do not mix, they do not pass by each other in corridors and they do not play together.

There have been several instances of use of unacceptable language and lack of respect on our playground and to staff during the drop off times especially as well as on the phone. Threats of 'charging' past the caretaker have also been made; this will make no difference as the doors to the classrooms will still remain locked until the set times they are due to open. Please note, to those who this may concern, that no staff member here is deserving of such unacceptable treatment. Staff have the right to end a call if spoken to rudely or in a threatening manner and also walk away from a situation they deem to be unpleasant.

I have previously written on several occasions requesting respect of covid-19 safety measures. ***Some parents/carers have supported us with this and I thank them tremendously for their support.*** I have also stated that the next option if parents/carers were not supportive, would be, not to allow any parents/cares on to our premises; I am very hesitant to keep family members off our premises. I am aware of some local schools who do not allow parents/carers on to their premises; children are dropped off at their gates. I have been in consultation with our local police force on this and they have clearly stated that it is within my right to do so.

As a school, we try to accommodate the needs of all but certainly those of the majority. Of the 265 families that we serve, 172 are dropping off and picking up one child; this is our majority group.

Due to the Government review following the tier system and decrease in cases in our locality, as well as, the concerns raised, I have re-evaluated our start of day and end of day times. As from next term, we will revert to some of the original times we set in September with minor adjustments as this seemed to work better. An added issue we have, is we need to make sure our gates are closed by 3pm to avoid some secondary school pupils using our premises as a shortcut and others disturbing the learning of the ground floor classrooms.

So, as from Tuesday, 5th January 2021:

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| 1. Y5/6 - Drop off 8.50am | Pick up 2.40pm (from KS2 playground) |
| 2. Y3/4 - Drop off 9am | Pick up 2.50pm (from the current drop off point) |
| 3. Y1/2 - Drop off 9am | Pick up 2.50pm (from KS1 playground, outside their classrooms) |
| 4. FS2 - Drop off 9am | Pick up 2.40pm (collection from outside their classrooms) |
| 5. FS1 - Drop off 9am | Pick up 12pm (collection from outside their classrooms) |

These times should allow for parents/carers who have more than one child to drop-off and pick up, enough time to get from one area to another and less waiting times (which seemed to be the issue). There will be an allowance of 10 minutes after the above set times to drop-off and pick-up. The arrangements above are only whilst we go through the challenges of Covid-19.

To all those who've continuously supported myself, staff and the school in general, thank you very much; there are many of you and we are very grateful. We will not be responding to any more matters relating to the subject of this letter. Moving forward, I do hope the above will be supported by all. I have tried to please various groups and have now accepted that I cannot please everyone but hopefully will please the majority.

Keep safe over the holiday period and all the best for 2021! Mrs Thorpe