



St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

12th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I just wanted to touch base at the end of this first week back with all the children coming in. The children seem to have relished the return and staff report that they are happy to be here, working well and enjoying seeing their friends.

As in September, I wanted to see how the return went this week before I made any tweaks and adjustments to our entry and egress system. I have been asked some interesting questions by parents this week which I thought I would answer here. Children coming in a staggered way in bubbles at different times is directed from Government guidance. These bubbles continue to be separated at break time, lunchtime, assemblies, when using the toilets and moving around the school. It is not just the start and end of the day. Education staff have not received a vaccination (unless they are of a certain age or have an underlying health issue) as one parent assumed this week. We have not been offered one just because we work in a school or with children. This is why we are being very clear about not mixing bubbles and children coming in at a specific time that we ask you to adhere to.

I have decided that **YEAR 6** pupils will now enter the school from the small pedestrian gate in Vine Road (not to be confused with the big wooden gates). The black outer gate will be opened at 8.30am to allow any early Year 6 arrivals (although this is discouraged). The next gate(entry to the playground) will be opened at 8.40am and they can enter the grounds. They will be unsupervised until 8.40am and remain your responsibility. We will expect their behaviour to be perfect if they are waiting and observe the neighbours right to quiet and not to block the pavement for pedestrians. Obviously, we do not expect them to arrive at 8.30am but to arrive as close to 8.40am as possible when they will be allowed in. We need to stick strictly to our timings and although it might seem like only 5 minutes late or early to you, it makes all the difference in school for getting children safely to their class without bumping into other children.

This means that the bike rack gate will now be closed at 8.40am when all Years 4 and 5 should have entered. Should any child arrive outside their time slot they will need to report to the Office at the main entrance and they will be marked late on the register.

If your child is in Year 3 or 6 with a bike or scooter and is coming in via Vine Road, they can bring it across the playground to the bike rack path, drop it off, and then go to their class. Please allow your child to take responsibility for this rather than you doing it for them.

Can I remind you again that you should only come to the office in an emergency? All other comments and enquiries should be done via email or telephone.

Thank you for helping us with these changes which we hope will further help to keep us all safe. Thank you for the lovely comments at the gate about how we managed the remote learning throughout the lockdown period.

With best wishes,

Mr Damian Tucker

Head teacher



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