

NEWSLETTER 2: SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Parents

Our school systems to ensure that we do our best to make our school Covid-19 secure seem to be working well so far. As you know our key actions to combat the spread of the virus in school concentrate upon

- social distancing between bubbles
- good hand hygiene
- good respiratory hygiene
- rigorous cleaning regimes

These measures operate in such a way that the children can all enjoy being at school just like 'normal.' There will of course be some exceptions to this rule, eg. no off-site visits or inter-school sports events, but generally, I'm pleased to tell you, we are able to make the school experience as rewarding and enjoyable as always.

Thank you for supporting our systems and especially for helping to make our start and end of school day transitions run so smoothly. This has given us the confidence to shorten collection and drop-off timings thus reducing the time you spend at the school gate or in the playground - something I am sure you will appreciate as the weather changes and it becomes cold and wet.

Details of new arrangements from Monday 28th September were distributed in a letter from Ms. Dobie earlier this week. A reminder that the new system is as follows:

Arrival

The children should arrive and be dropped off at the same place; however the arrival times have changed and are as follows:

8.45am YN & YR
8.55am Y1 & Y2
9.00am Y3 & Y4
9.05am Y5 & Y6

Older sibling(s) should continue to arrive with their younger sibling(s).

Departure

The departure system will be as follows. Please check the arrangements for your child(ren) as some classes will remain the same but others may have changed, in time and/or collection point.

3.00pm YN - No change to collection point or time
3.00pm YR - No change to collection time **but** please collect from YR playground door
3.10pm Y1 & Y2 - No change to collection point or time
3.10pm Y3 - No change to collection point **but** earlier collection time
3.20pm Y4 - No change to collection time **but** collection point changed; please collect from main entrance via the car park
3.20pm Y5 – Changes to collection time and point: **collect from playground, near hall steps; earlier collection time**
3.20pm Y6 - No change to collection point **but** earlier collection time

There have been some requests to collect all children at the same time. I am afraid that this is not possible without compromising the length of the school day. We hope that a reduction in waiting time has somewhat eased this inconvenience.

To avoid an unnecessary mixing of bubbles at the end of the school day, please

- do not allow your children to wander around the playground and mix with pupils from other bubbles; they must remain by your side at all times
- please depart swiftly as soon as your child/ren are gathered from the teacher

Also please

- do not remain at the gates after drop-off in the morning to chat
- model social distancing when on school premises to reinforce the message to all children
- avoid where possible, children socialising across bubbles outside of school

Please do not be offended by the prescriptive nature of my requests and understand that everything we do and ask is for the welfare of everyone in our school community. When social distancing unintentionally breaks down outside of school it seriously undermines our concerted efforts to protect children, staff and families from the threat that the virus continues to pose at a time of increasing infection rates and transmission.

We really appreciate your support and cooperation.



Y5 Space Project

Parking: Please do not park over residents drives when dropping and collecting. This generates understandable and unnecessary tension between residents and the school community.

Also avoid parking on the corner of the road opposite the school gate, stopping on the zig-zag lines or doing three point turns outside of

school. All of these things can lead to a serious accident and one would never forgive oneself if a child was injured as a consequence of our haste and carelessness.



Congratulations to the following children from Y6 following their election as **House Captains and Vice-Captains:**

- St. David – Laddie and Oliver S
- St. Andrew – Louis and Thomas
- St. Patrick – George and Jasper
- St. George Hinagi and Luke

The children had to present to their peers before the vote took place; a good lesson in democracy and a chance to brush-up on those all important presentation skills!



'Why I would be a good House Captain' pitch

School Uniform: Now that the weather seems to have turned, feel free to send your children to school in winter uniform. If your child has a school fleece we are happy to permit it to be worn in class as for the time being windows and doors remain open to aid the circulation of air to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated. A reminder that all uniform items can be sourced from Bragg's in North Finchley.

Hair: Please support the school policy by avoiding extreme hairstyles. It seems to be a growing fashion for some boys to have long hair. It is our policy that long hair which hangs over the face needs to be tied back so that the children's sight is not impeded. This applies to both girls and boys. Your support with this is important.



Proud to be elected as a Captain for my House!

Footwear: Most classes are now timetabled to use the MUGA at playtimes and/or lunchbreak. Please ensure that your child's footwear is suitable for play on the MUGA; most boys shoes have soles very similar to that of trainers and they are therefore suitable for wearing on the MUGA; this is not the case for many of the girls. We will not be encouraging children to change footwear during the school day to minimise the gathering of pupils in corridors,

so please ensure that every child comes to school in shoes with soles suited to an astro turf surface. Black trainers for girls are fine. A reminder that girls are only allowed to wear **studs in ears**; other styles can be dangerous to wear during playtimes as they are easily snagged during play. Varnished nails are also not permitted. **Winter coats** should be plain navy blue or black. Thank you for continuing to support our school uniform policy.



“It doesn't take long to settle into Reception Class. I don't know what you were worrying about Mum!”

Creative Curriculum (now referred to by us as the Wider Curriculum) **and Governors' Maintenance Fund Contributions:** Please continue to support these funds as we are very dependent upon your contributions. Although we will not be running trips for the foreseeable future due to Covid-19, we will continue to offer workshops for the children to support and stimulate their learning. Similarly, we must continue to make our annual contributions to the London Diocesan Board of Schools maintenance fund to ensure that our school remains in good condition and to access funds held by the LDBS to pay for major repairs (planned and unexpected) and refurbishment projects. School finances are stretched to breaking point and without your voluntary support for these two funds we would be in an even more difficult situation. Please remember three quarters of your contribution to the

maintenance fund is used to provide your children with a weekly swimming lesson. We think that this continues to represent good value for money.

Your support is important and gratefully received.

Graham Gunn

Head Teacher



"My hunch is subsidence!"



"Looks like the 7.35 to Kings Cross is going to be a little late!"



"All you need is a good, flat foundation to build on!"



"Hard hats should be worn on this building site at all times!"



"That's starting to look better already!"