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Head teacher: Mrs Vicky Barron BSc Hons GTP Primary

Monday 23rd November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Please find below more detail relating to the request to wear face masks at drop off and collection:

Having discussed this with a group of local Head teachers last week it is felt that we all have to be extra vigilant at the current time - if there is a case, which we would expect, given the recent experiences of very many other schools in Gloucestershire, we don't want it to become an outbreak (feedback from other Head teachers locally supports this view). Many schools have insisted on the wearing of masks since September.

Children are now all used to seeing people in masks; we don't believe that the vast majority of children will find this as traumatic as they might have in March - it is for a short period of time as you arrive and leave the school premises and when other adults are in close proximity.

We have a pick up time of 3.00-3.15. Most parents are coming nearer 3.15. There is more of a bottleneck on the playground with people waiting and chatting closer than have been - 2 metres apart is a greater distance than we regularly see. The other option is to go back to set times for pick up but that has also been awkward for people in the past so we are trying to negotiate this issue without needing to return to that unless we have to.

As we are not able to run after school clubs under the current more restrictive rules, 96% of children are going home at the same time. There are more children to discharge simultaneously. This is primarily what is causing the issue of many parents and children in the school grounds at once. We will review the wearing of masks at the end of this current period of lockdown, when we should be able to resume clubs.

The wearing of masks is a request, not a demand, it's a small request but one that may help avoid other, more inconvenient ones such as school closure running up to the end of term. If you need to say a few words to your child without the mask at drop off, then of course please find some space to do that. It is not our intention to distress children or you as parents.

There are 51 families in the school - we know we won't please you all with this as opinions vary. Other Head teachers have reported a similar varied response in their schools. We are doing our best in tricky times. We would all love to get to Christmas without needing to close.

Kind regards,

Vicky Barron



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