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Newsletter

<http://bordoninfantschool.co.uk>

4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I really hope that you have had a nice Summer and that you and your children are looking forward to starting school next week. The staff have been in over the Summer getting ready to have all the children back and we are very excited about school starting again.

I am writing to you to go over a few of the changes that we have made. I wrote to you before the Summer about all of these and there is nothing new, I just thought it would be useful as a quick reminder.

The start and finish times for the different year groups have had to change. The new times are:

Year R - 8:40 to 3:10

Year 1 - 8:45 to 3:15

Year 2 - 8:55 to 3:25

These times will be kept under review and if government guidance changes we will go back to our original times. This is unlikely to be before Christmas though and we may well have these times all year.

Year R parents, please use the small gate at the top of the playground (see attached map). The main gates near the Junior School will be full of Junior parents and we want to spread parents out as much as possible. Please wait on the Year R playground and the staff will come onto the playground to collect your children at 8:40am.

Year 1 parents, please could you use the Budds Lane gate and wait on the playground. The staff will ring a bell and the children will line up on their class spots. Parents will need to keep a 2 metre distance from one another but children will not have to. Children may use the playground equipment under your supervision before school. There will be no staff out so your children are completely under your supervision.

Year 2 parents, please use the small gate at the top of the playground (see attached map). The main gates near the Junior School will be full of Junior parents and we want to spread parents out as much as possible. Please wait on the playground and do not come down to the class doors. This is especially important for Elephant Class parents. The space outside Elephants is very restricted and there is no room to maintain social distancing. When the teachers open the class doors please send your child over to the class.

There are some changes we have made inside school and they are listed below.

- **We would like all Year 1 and 2 parents to send children in with a named pencil case so they can have their own equipment in it. The pencil case should be empty, we will provide the equipment they need.**

- We will be actively promoting and teaching the children the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' idea when blowing their nose and sneezing.
- We will split the playground in half so that Year 1 and Year 2 play in different areas.
- We cannot separate Year R, 1 and 2 completely at lunchtime but we will have all Year R and one Year 1 class in first and then the other Year 1 class and Year 2 in second. This will be consistent every day.
- We will start sending home reading books and other work such as phonics and spellings.

We have all the handwashing and cleaning facilities needed in school. Please do not send your child in with bottles of alcohol gel. It is considered a controlled substance and must only be used under adult direction in school. Children will not be allowed to have their own bottles, even small ones kept in book bags. We have clear procedures in school for cleaning hands and all the children will be taught them in the first week.

Talking to staff will also be a bit different. If you have a quick question, then staff may be able to answer if for you at the start or end of the day. If you would like a longer or a more confidential discussion, then please ask your child's teacher to ring you after school or ring the school and leave a message for them to ring you back. You can always email as well. Please do bear with us if we take a little while to get back to you, we will get back as soon as we can but we may have a number of parents to contact. This isn't the type of good communication we like but the ongoing global situation gives us little choice.

If your child is ill you will be wondering what to do for the best. As we move into winter many children will get colds. The advice remains the same as before. If a child is a little under the weather and a dose of capol will see them through then send them into school. If, however, they have any of the symptoms below they must stay at home and you will need to book a Covid test. These can be easily booked by googling 'NHS Covid test' and looking for the NHS testing website.

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal.

If children appear to have any of these symptoms while in school we will contact you and ask you to collect them. Children will then not be allowed back into school until they have had a test and the results have come back negative. I fully appreciate the difficulties this will cause working parents but I am really hoping employers will be understanding at this time. If there is a confirmed case of a child in school, then we have clear procedures to follow. Cases of children in school in Hampshire, we have been told, are exceptionally rare.

As always if you have questions then please do ask. We are still here for you however different things may at first appear. I will be around outside in the mornings to talk to if you need or you can phone me. We are doing everything we can to make this year as normal for the children as possible. We want to ensure that school is still the safe, fun and exciting learning environment that children love coming to. Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Matt Greenhalgh
Headteacher