



## HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – MARCH 11

Dear Parents

We have been very impressed with the way that the children have returned to school this week. On the whole, the week has gone very well and the children are settling back into the routines of school life.

We are constantly reviewing the systems we have for entering and exiting the school grounds at drop off and pick up times. KS2 generally works very well but I'm sure that you are all aware that the KS1 entrance has been a constant worry with the close proximity to the car park and also the large amount of families who need to access the school at this point. We thank those of you who have contacted us to express your concerns recently.

We do take your concerns seriously and have decided to make some changes with a **trial** tomorrow **Friday 12th March** before our Reception cohort return to school on Monday 15th.

From tomorrow we would like Yr 1 and Yr 2 pupils and parents to access the school via the side gate near to the park entrance and Children's centre. There are several pushchair friendly, tarmac paths on which to congregate and to maintain social distancing whilst you wait for the side gate to open and there are no cars in this area so it will be much safer for everyone. We will allow Nursery parents (and Reception parents) to stand in the Children's centre car park until 8.45am and then when they have left, we will open the side gate at 8.50am to allow Yr 2 followed by Yr 1 pupils into the school grounds. These pupils have been excellent at leaving their parents at the gate this week and we would encourage you to do the same from the side gate tomorrow. Staff will be in place to help you if needed. Any parents entering the school grounds will then leave by going up the steps or through the driveway gates. In effect we are reversing the one-way system which we had in place previously.

We have also decided to alter the time for Reception to enter school, the new time from Monday when they return, will be **8.45am** drop off and pick up time at **3pm**. (All other times are unchanged). We would like to request that Nursery parents stand at the bottom of the Children's centre car park nearer to the Nursery entrance and Reception parents stand further up the car park nearer to the KS1 yard gate where the children will enter at 8.45am. At the end of the day, Nursery and Reception parents may congregate in the Children's centre car park area again and Yr 1 and Yr 2 parents will be allowed into the grounds from the side gate once these parents have left. This will help to maintain social distancing and give us the ability to match the children to all parents safely. Once again, families will leave via the steps or the driveway gate keeping the system one-way only.

I very much hope that these changes will be safer and more manageable for us all but if not, we will keep reviewing things until we get it right.

Other reminders:



### **World Book Day**

Tomorrow is our World Book Day celebration. Children can come to school dressed in fancy dress as their favourite book character or in non-school uniform. The children have all been writing Mr Men stories and there will be a prize for the best story / greatest effort in each class.

### **Commando Joes**

This term our Commando Joes Programme will run for Yrs 4 and 5 every Friday. Generally the children will need to arrive in PE kit but tomorrow's introductory session means they can dress up for World Book Day if they wish.

### **Water bottles**

Please can you make sure that your child has water in their drinks bottles for use in class and not juice. Pupils having a packed lunch can bring juice for lunchtime but only water is allowed in class during lesson time. This helps to keep the children hydrated during the day and is better for children's teeth.

I hope that you and your families remain well during this continuing difficult time. Thank you for your support and patience as we try to improve routines and systems.

Mrs Adair.