



1 October 2020

Dear Parents

I wanted to write to you to ask for your help.

As you know, the start and end of the school day have become a time that involves military precision. I have never had to look at my watch so frequently! We are now four weeks into term, have had one change of start/end times and there are some things that I am starting to notice that I want to address. These are things that I think could get worse, particularly as the weather changes and I want to nip them in the bud.

First and foremost, the safety of children, staff and parents is my number one concern. Everything we have put in place for the start and end of the day has been an attempt to avoid banning parents from the school playground, which is what some schools have had to do. However, I am concerned by the number of adults and children that are on the playground for longer than they need to be.

It would be very helpful if everyone could comply with the following requests:

- If your child can walk through the gate on their own at the start of the day, then please let them. Quite a few parents come onto the playground for a matter of seconds and then turn around and try to leave. This then causes a bottleneck as people are still trying to come in.
- I would like to introduce a traffic system at the Wistow Way gate where people come in and leave on the LEFT. This should help with the flow of traffic.
- Please do not stand chatting with other parents once you have picked up your child. This means that there are more people on the playground than there needs to be and it also means that staff have to man the gate for longer.
- Please leave the school site as quickly as you can.
- Your children are your responsibility when they are with you. They should not be running around or going onto the field/mound.
- Arrive on time. You have a 5-minute slot to get your child into school. If you arrive late, your child gets a late mark and you are then on the playground when you shouldn't be; at the time of the next group.

As you may be aware, there have been some confirmed cases in Peterborough schools and Heads are starting to share what they have learnt from the experience. What is loud and clear is that some children are having to miss school, to stay at home, because they have been in contact with someone who is experiencing COVID like symptoms. We are having to work hard to limit the amount of contact between classes. If you car share, or have children round to your house for a get-together or party, you are running the risk of your child having to miss school because they have been in close contact with someone else. This could then lead to COVID in our school and one or more classes having to stay at home for two weeks. We want to avoid this disruption as far as possible.

Test and Trace **close contact definition:**

- had face-to-face contact of any duration (less than 1 metre away) with the case or
- were coughed or sneezed on by the case or
- had unprotected physical contact (skin to skin) with case, or
- spent more than 1 minute within 1 metre of the case, or
- spent more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of the case or
- travelled in a car or other small vehicle (even on a short journey)



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I don't enjoy having to be so blunt about what we expect you to do but we are all working hard to make this work. It is not easy for anyone and we would appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely

Simon Eardley
Headteacher

