

Richard Avenue

September 20' Newsletter

"If you want to see the view...you`ve got to climb the mountain."

It is great to be back at school, seeing all our lovely children and their parents. Can I start by saying thank you to the vast majority of families who have:

- Prepared their children for the return- we had very few anxious children
- 'Tried' to stick to the start/ finish times
- Adhered to the one way systems
- Socially distanced on the yard
- Kept away from the office/ staff
- Have had a very positive attitude towards the return, given us continued support and praise for our efforts- it means a lot.

A huge thank you to all the staff who are going the extra mile. Staff are working tirelessly to keep your children safe, support their emotional well-being and getting back into the learning routine.

Congratulations: Mrs Dunn who has given birth to a beautiful baby boy and Miss Higgins a beautiful baby girl. Both families are doing very well.

Dates: In order to continue our theme of Acts of Kindness we are going to hold our annual Mc Millan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September. This will be for children only at a cost of £1 for cake and drink. This will take place in classrooms at the end of the day.

Keeping us safe at school: Just to summarise/ remind you of the additional safety measures we have in school

- Staggered drop off/ collection times
- One way systems on gates
- Corridor markings for movement in school and 2m SD markings for staff.
- Children spend all day in their year group 'bubble' only
- Zoned play areas for break and lunchtime
- All children supervised, at all times- including all movement around school.
- Hand sanitisers at all main entrances
- 'Cleaning kit' in every room- sanitiser, disinfectant, wipes

- Handwashing/ sanitising schedule
- Increased cleaning schedule across the day, including frequently touched surfaces (FTS) in all shared areas and classrooms
- Where possible children have own equipment
- Shared equipment/toys in each bubble are frequently sprayed.

Staff need to also keep themselves safe and your children so staff will:

- SD from other staff
- SD from children where possible
- If close contact is needed (learning, comfort), face- shields will be worn.
- Teaching across bubbles- face shields may be worn
- Supervising the gate face-shields may be worn

Changes in procedures: We are constantly evaluating our risk assessments in school and how well our day to day procedures are going. We are really pleased with how well the entry and exit is happening, but feel;

- the period of time the doors / gates are open is too long- this is significantly impacting upon learning time.
- FAR TOO MANY CHILDREN ARE COMING TOO EARLY and having to wait. As the weather changes this is not ideal for them, but we cannot have fire doors open for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in the winter. So...

- **ENTRY:** Gates will open 8.40, class doors 8.45, gates close 9.00. Children can arrive anytime between 8.45 and 9.00.
PLEASE PLEASE do not come any earlier and queue
PLEASE PLEASE do not drive too fast, park on zig-zags, park on the path, throw the passengers door open onto the path whilst people are passing, do U turns at main entrances (so irresponsible and selfish).
- Single junior gate currently used for Y5/6, can be used for Y3,4,5,6- without parents and as a one way. (Some parents are encouraging their children to ignore the one-way system).
- Remember please: Ranson St is available as a one-way system (exit only), **SD** on the yard is essential, do not use the yard as a social gathering for family and friends.
- **EXIT:** Gates will open 3.15 (Y1-6), 3.25 (N/R)
Class doors:

Nursery	3.40	Year 1	3.20	Year 3	3.25	Year 5	3.35
Reception	3.30	Year 2	3.20	Year 4	3.25	Year 6	3.35

Gates will close 3.45pm, Nursery/ Ranson Street- 3.50pm

I urge all parents to:

1. Arrive promptly on a morning- I would ask no parents on the yard AT ALL. The infants are accessing school brilliantly- leave them at the gate and go!
2. At the end of the day, get here on time, not 15 mins before your slot and cause congestion on the yard, if you have more than one child keep them with you at all times
3. Wait well away from the children's exit points, when you have collected your children go immediately
4. Do not use the yard as your social venue

Communication: This letter will also be sent out by e-mail today, if you do not receive it **PLEASE** e-mail school: raps@schools.sunderland.gov.uk and inform us- we can check to see if our systems are working. We are trying to move towards limited paper contact.

Breakfast Club/ After School Club: Is up and running, please contact the main office if you require this facility. All payments must be made in advance and online.

School Office: Thank you so much to all those who have tried very hard to adhere to the online payments system. There are still a few people who need to move to this system. Please get yourselves organised to pay online. Only come to the school office in the case of an emergency... ring and we will answer your query- 01915007990.

Sunderland Lockdown: As Sunderland has entered a new lockdown we must all be extra vigilant, review our behaviour and contribute to keeping each other safe. It is no good school trying their best to keep your children safe, when a minority of families are ignoring what is good for the majority and selfishly doing what is best only for them.

I am living my life in a way that keeps my family safe, so are all my staff. In turn. we can try to keep you and your children safe and keep school open...we ask you do the same for us.

I have said **PLEASE** so many times in the newsletter, I ask again **PLEASE** take notice.

I apologise for all the information, so here is a summary!!

1. New drop off/ collection times
2. Single gate entry only for Y3-6 pupils
3. Check your e mails are working
4. Pay everything online and keep away from the office
5. Sort out your driving, parking and timekeeping (for those who need to!!)
6. Sunderland Citizens- behave yourself and keep us all safe: HANDS, FACE, SPACE

If you need us, please call we are here to help. T

Thank you again for your support in making our September start, a successful one!!

Karen & Todd

