

22 October 2020

Dear parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for all your replies, thoughts and questions about the update that I sent out yesterday. The replies and suggestions were discussed during the PTA meeting this morning, which was really helpful.

Going off the response of the emails and the PTA, it would appear that a lot of parents think that wearing a mask in the car park is a very good idea. This has come on the back of the problems that parents have trying to socially distance, avoid moving cars and still stay visible to staff at the school gate. Therefore, please may I ask that from now on (definitely after half term) masks are worn by all adults collecting the children.

Another point that was flagged was to do with the early collection of Class 1. This was deemed to be a very good idea, with the question then raised about whether the other classes would be staggered too. This is again a good point, but would cause problems for parents with children in different class bubbles. If masks are worn and Class 1 parents vacate the carpark quickly (if they are able to due to the lack of other bubble siblings) then the problem should sort itself. If these measures don't help ease the situation then I will look at staggered class times during the second week of term.

A couple of points were also raised about Parent's Evenings. The first was to do with my wording where I mentioned only one parent could wait inside for their appointment. This could be interpreted that only one parent could come along. I didn't mean that at all, what I meant was only one family could wait inside instead of lots of people all waiting together. Sorry for the confusion. Can I also reiterate though, that no children will be allowed on site during the meetings.

The second Parent's Evening point was about whether parents could have a virtual call instead of a phone call if they wanted to. Of course you can! Just ask when booking in for your appointment slot.

There was also some concern mentioned about children coming in from different tiers. As you know we are just about managing to stay in tier 1, although the numbers published today show the High Peak rising quite substantially. Chesterfield and the surrounding areas are already in tier 2, alongside Glossopdale, with Sheffield going into tier 3 from tomorrow. Regardless of tier, children can still come to and from school.

From tier 2 upwards, the Government have advised that car sharing should not happen. The Government website reads: "It is difficult to socially distance during car journeys. You should avoid sharing a car with someone from outside your household or your support bubble unless you can practise social distancing." Obviously this will slightly increase the number of cars using the carpark, so if any parents can make use of the pavilion or surrounding roads, that would be a superb help.

Another issue raised was concern about play dates amongst the children. Again the answer to this lies within which tier people live in. The Government states that you have to follow the rules of your home tier. This is an area out of my remit as play dates are organised from parent to parent, but I would personally look at my own tier rules and then the tier rules that the other family is following and make my decision based on that information. Please try to talk to your children about them arranging play dates amongst their friends, as little ones don't understand the tier rules (do any of us?!) and we've had a lot of tears this week when they have had to be cancelled.

If any of you are starting to feel a financial impact of the pandemic and would like school to research if any help is available, e.g. free school meals, then please do get in touch in the strictest of confidence obviously.

Anyway, as previously mentioned we had a really positive and productive PTA meeting this morning. Thank you to the parents who came along and those who provided their feedback and apologies. Lots of exciting topics were discussed and will be shared with you all shortly!

Warm wishes for a very restful half term.