



1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Parent and Carers – we need your help!

We have a dilemma and we hope you can help us with our solution.

As you know we are a school that loves to 'meet and greet'. We place huge importance on our relationship with parents and carers and love to be visible and available to answer quick questions or for a brief 'catch-up' at the gate. Essentially, this is why we are out every morning and afternoon, come rain or shine, to give you and your child a warm welcome and a fond farewell.

However, our drop-off procedure needs further strengthening but I don't want this to be at the expense of our relationship with the community.

It's becoming more commonplace for staff, including myself, to be distracted by longer conversations at the gate or doorway and this is problematic for many reasons. Firstly, we don't wish to have private conversations about your children publicly (and we know you don't either) but sometimes these conversations develop anyway. Secondly, it distracts our attention from the safety of the children. It is incredibly busy at handover times with shared supervision between parents and staff – sometimes it's hard to see if a child is with their adult or if they've run ahead. We have to remain vigilant.

So, please can we ask you to help us by:

- Keeping your child close to you at drop-off and pick-up. Please discourage them from running ahead as it's hard to see if an adult is supervising them.
- Avoiding engaging school adults in long conversations. If you are happy to wait until the gates are locked at 8:45am and all the children are safely in the building, the adults on the gates are often free to talk (we tend to nip into the Acorn Centre for privacy). Alternatively, you can call the school a little later to pass a message on, request a call-back or arrange a meeting or you can use the dl@ email.
- DO NOT PARK, STOP OR DRIVE IRRESPONSIBLY. We are at our posts on the gate for the children. When one of the team is called to intervene with inconsiderate parking issues, our attention is diverted from the children.

We have purchased high-vis 'staff' jackets which staff will wear from now on when they are at their posts during handover. We will be wearing these from Monday 4th March.

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Head teacher: Pippa Brand-Benee



Lastly, I met with the Pupil Parliament on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, to talk about all things THS. Among their requests for more bins, better homework etc., which I'll bring you more news on shortly, the Pupil Parliament wanted to request that parents and carers do not use mobile phones when on the school site. They shared that when the 'grown-ups' have their phones out on site, the children don't know what they are doing with them – 'filming, taking photos etc.' They were incredibly articulate about it and have since produced some posters to put up on the school gates. Therefore, moving forward please end your calls before coming on site and ensure your phones are stowed away whenever you are on school grounds. The only phones permitted are authorised school phones. We try hard to keep our children safe when they are in our care and have taken time to plan, staff and resource safe handover times. But we can only achieve success with help from you. I thank you in advance for working with us for the safety of our children.

Thank you

Pippa

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