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# “part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership" Headteacher: Karen Bazeley

15th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The children have continued to settle back in to school life and are certainly enjoying the recent beautiful sunshine and the opportunity to play together outside again, which has been lovely to see. We have put up both sets of football posts and rugby posts and we are able to use our OPAL play pod equipment within bubbles. P.E. will be predominantly outside as much as possible.

Teachers are currently busy filming their virtual ‘Welcome’ meetings which will be shared via the website in due course; we are aiming for by the end of this week. I say ‘aiming for’ as you will appreciate that the current Covid situation continues to throw up challenges with each day presenting new difficulties. If you have any health questions related to Covid, please contact the NHS or your GP for advice as we are not qualified to provide this.

Thank you for your help with the staggered start and end times and different entrances and exits; these are generally working well to help us maintain bubble distance. However there is a minority of families who are arriving after their time; particularly Key Stage 2 children arriving by car and this can then compromise safety of others as they are then trying to walk against the direction that Key Stage 1 children are travelling to class. From Tuesday 15th September the driving drop off gates will be shut at 8.35 a.m. and late arrivals will need to park and walk and their child will have to wait with parents and enter school after Key Stage 1 have safely entered the building and there is a member of staff available to take them in.

It seems to be working well with regard to safety of all children having no cars moving in Mandy Meadows when children are leaving school. Thank you for your support with this. We are finding that we need to place cones and a barrier to prevent parents from parking on the corner at the top. There have been at least two near misses this term where a car on the corner has nearly caused an accident; both times involving reversing towards children crossing the road at the top. The Highway Code states that no car should park within 10 metres of a junction. Local residents have complained about this and the PCSO has informed the school that they will be carrying out regular patrols; any cars parked illegally will be ticketed.

We are currently trying to find a way of offering after school clubs without a charge to parents but this is proving challenging. In normal times, teachers are able to offer clubs. However at present owing to separate breaks and lunchtimes for each bubble and meals being served in six zones, staff are already doing more duties .The advice is that books don't travel between school and teachers' homes so all marking has to be done at school before 5pm when they need to vacate to allow for thorough cleaning.

Thank you for your understanding. Stay safe.

Karen Bazeley

Headteacher