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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

Safety Around School

Dear Parents,

First of all I hope you are well, and enjoying the drier weather as Spring arrives. It is certainly welcome after the long winter.

I have to write to you all and draw your attention to some issues around school drop off and pick up.

Social Distancing

Staff are concerned that not all parents are keeping their children by their side when waiting for the children to be admitted into school. We mustn't let this area of the road be used as an area where the children can play with each other. I must therefore ask you to be vigilant and keep your child/ren with you when you arrive at school. Please use the whole of the space outside of the gate and refrain from congregating at the 'bottle neck' at the start of the drive as this can also make it difficult for staff to see parents when sending children at the end of the day.

Please also come down onto the drive and not ask children to come up onto the road at pick up times as cars continue to come along School Road.

Vehicle Access

When you arrive at school by car, it is far safer for you and your child to find a car space away from the school, and then accompany your child to the drop off / pick up area and wait. This was the rule before any Covid -19 restrictions were put into place, and is based on road safety.

We have one parent who is a Blue Badge Holder, who sometimes drops his children off by the gate. This is unavoidable due to his difficulty with accessibility to the school by any other means.

I am very much aware that car spaces are sometimes difficult to find, however, we

cannot compromise road safety over social distancing measures. The situation is made far safer if adults keep a vigilant eye on their children (including the older children in Year 6), and subsequently keep them by their side at all times when not on school property.

Driving Speeds

Staff have reported to me that they often see parents driving at an inconsiderate speed along School Lane. This is a particular concern for us, as often this is out of sight from the main school. If you feel that a parent is not driving in a considerate or safe manner, please write in confidence to me.

Finally

I have worked at Pillowell school for 11 years now. Parking and vehicle access have always been a concern for parents, staff and governors. The points I have raised are therefore not new, but I appeal to everybody's common sense and flexibility when driving around the school, and supervising your child when near school property.

Despite the relaxing of restrictions regarding Covid 19, and at the risk of sounding patronising, we must remember that we are still in lockdown, and there is always a likelihood that people may fall ill with Coronavirus. Therefore, the social distancing measures that we have put in place, whilst not perfect, are designed to keep you and your children as safe as possible. We must continue to be flexible and make compromises if we need to. There may be mistakes made, but we can learn from them - as we do as a school. I would much rather learn from a genuine mistake than from an accident which we can all strive hard to avoid.

As always, thank you for your support.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson
Headteacher
24th March 2021