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Friday 11th September 2020

Keeping everyone as safe as possible at the end of the school day

Dear Parents / Carers,

As this week has progressed, it has become increasingly more apparent that there are difficulties at the end of the day as you and your children are leaving school. Until school opened, and we welcomed everyone back, we did not know how effective our plans would be.

When completing our risk assessment, we considered many options including:

- Using separate gates for different classes
- A staggered end to the school day
- A one way system through the playground

Every school is different and some of them have implemented a staggered end to the school day. We do not believe that this will work for our school as we have so many children with siblings in different year groups; children who have siblings at Cove Infant School; and children whose older siblings collect them when they leave Cove School.

Many members of staff have been observing the end of the day routines and the main problem is the lack of social distancing between families. We are lucky to have three different exit points to our school site but when families congregate around the gates, there is not enough space for other parents and their children to get past safely.

We have a number of vulnerable children, parents and staff and we must do everything we can to protect them, our whole school community, and our wider family members. Thank you to everyone who has tried their best to maintain social distancing despite the problems which we have encountered this week. Thank you also to the parents who have got in touch with us to share their concerns – we share your concerns.

In order for everyone to remain as safe as possible, it is essential that every member of our school community – parents and children – follow these guidelines:

- Do not wait at the school gates, on the pavements on Fernhill Road, or in the alleyway
- Enter the school grounds and wait on the playground / car park at a safe distance from other families – please spread out and use all of the available space
- Keep younger children with you
- When your child leaves the building, do not allow them to hug their friends (some children are hugging children from other bubbles as they leave school)
- Please leave the school site as soon as you have collected your children
- If you do not have other siblings to collect, please do not arrive earlier than 3:25pm – we will not let your child leave until you arrive
- Please do not bring dogs to school at the end of the day (waiting with them at the school gates reduces the space for other people to pass)
- Consider wearing a face mask



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Space Education
Quality Mark



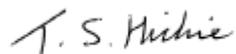
Healthy School

I know how very hard it was for everyone when the schools were closed. It is therefore essential that each and every person in our school community does their best to prevent this from happening again. Our children need to be in school receiving the education that they are entitled to.

I strongly believe that sacrificing the chance to have a chat at close quarters to others, is worth making in order that we minimise the risks. I am sure that you would join me in prioritising the health and safety of others, and the education of our children, above mixing socially with others at the end of the day.

Please keep your distance from others and support us in keeping our school open for every child.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. S. Hickie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tracey Hickie

Headteacher