



# QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to say how delighted we have been to have all the children back and to feedback to you how wonderful the children have been. Even the very youngest children have been coming into the classrooms independently and settling quickly in the mornings. The children are so happy to be back together with their class friends and have adapted to the new routines. We were expecting the children to be very anxious but now the children have been back a few days and seen the stringent measures in place for handwashing, 'catch it and bin it' etc I think it has eased any worries they may have had ahead of term starting.

I also wanted to say thank you to all the parents for your co-operation in following the rules regarding staggered starts and finishes as well as the one-way system. 99% of families are doing this exactly as requested. Can I urge the 1% who are still trying to abuse the one way system, by exiting the site via the side entrance which is the entrance only now and coming in via Brantwood Rise which is the exit only now to please stop this. It is compromising social distancing and putting people at risk. The staff and I have been popping out at some drop off and collection times, but please support us by reminding any parents you see using the wrong entrance/exit to use the right ones.

Thank you to all the parents who have given us feedback about the current logistics, both verbally as well as emailing us. I wanted to flag up points that have been raised by the parent community so everyone can support us in addressing them:

- Some parents are gathering to have social chats with other parents and therefore blocking the paths around the school. Social distancing is still incredibly important. Please can parents not gather on the school site to catch up with other parents socially. The flow of pedestrian traffic around the school is paramount. This also includes the entrance and exit points.
- There is a group of parents that stand by the gates smoking and vaping and causing congestion. This is not only unpleasant for other families to walk through but again compromises social distancing.
- Some parents are touching other people's children by 'high fiving' them and generally being too close. Please do not touch other parents or children.
- Some parents are allowing play dates after school when their child has been off ill that day or even sent home ill from school, therefore potentially spreading germs to other families. If a child is ill, they need to limit contact with other people.
- Some parents have sent their child into school when they have been sick the previous day and have not been truthful with us at school about it. Please ensure you keep your child off for 48 hours from the last point they had sickness or diarrhoea.
- Some children are coming into school with more than one adult accompanying them. Only one adult per child please to avoid congestion.

I want to stress again that the vast majority of parents have been incredibly supportive and are helping to make the re-opening of school for everyone as safe as possible.

Our biggest challenge currently is the huge amount of phone calls from parents trying to decide if their child has a seasonal cold or covid symptoms. We appreciate it can be a confusing situation. We can only tell you what we have been given in our guidance from the Government for schools re-opening. Covid symptoms are a high temperature, a continuous cough and loss of taste/smell. We have also been receiving feedback that access to testing is very limited.

Moving on to some other points:

- **Annual Data forms**- every child was sent home with a pack of data sheets and permission forms to sign. The deadline is Monday for these to be returned, (Wednesday for Nursery and Reception children).
- **Mobile phones**- please can parents refrain from using them when waiting for their child on site.

- **Class blogs-** all children were sent home with usernames and passwords to access their class blogs. Please ensure you all try these as this will also be the platform used to provide remote learning if a cohort is sent home to isolate for 14 days. Please let us know if you have any problems logging on.
- **New wooden play equipment-** please do not allow your children to play on this before and after school. When the children use it during the school day we ensure they wash their hands before and after play times in order to follow the set guidance.

We are constantly refining on our plans and practices, so please do let us know if you have any feedback for us. Thank you again for all your co-operation and it has been lovely catching up with many of you on the gates!

Have a good weekend- lots of tired children coming your way tonight!

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman  
Head Teacher