



**HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS –
WE WANT ALL OUR CHILDREN TO BE SAFE AT ALL TIMES!**

This is quite a list of reminders but we really appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that children's safety is of paramount importance.

Packed Lunches

We are in the process of reviewing our School Packed Lunch Policy this term with our VIP group (School Council) and our SNAG group. (School Nutrition Action Group) Both groups are ran by the children. We will inform you as soon as this work is completed.

However in the meantime, please can parents make sure that these simple rules are adhered to from a health and safety perspective. Please note we have a number of children with nut allergies in school, some of which are severe! (*Nut allergies are so easily triggered and we do not want a serious incident in school!!*)

Packed lunches SHOULD NOT include any of the following:

- Nuts and Nut products of any kind.
- Fizzy/sugary drinks in cartons, bottles or cans (including diet or energy drinks which can contain high levels of caffeine and other additives which are not suitable for children)
- Confectionary such as chocolate bars and sweets
- Chocolate spread as sandwich

We are aware that some of our children like to have grapes and cherry tomatoes in their packed lunches. Although these are healthy foods, there are health and safety issues linked to these due to their size and shape which could possibly present a choking hazard. These food items could potentially completely plug a child's airway as the tight seal produced by the foods smooth surface makes them difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques. Due to this information we advise that all grapes and tomatoes are cut in half lengthways and ideally in quarters so that we can improve safety at lunchtimes. Some children are also bringing mini-eggs in their packed lunches. These also present the same hazard. Therefore please do not send these in your child's packed lunch.

The school recognises that some pupils may require special diets that do not follow the National Food Standards exactly. In this case parents/carers are asked to make sure that packed lunches are as healthy as possible. For these reasons pupils are also not permitted to swap food items.

Before & After School

To ensure safety and well-being of our children, we politely request that children do not arrive on the school site unaccompanied before 8.45 a.m. If you do need to drop off early and cannot stay, Breakfast Club is available. Staff supervise the playgrounds from 8.45a.m.

It would also be helpful if parents could keep the area outside the Classroom of the Future and the path down to the playground clear. This will enable children who have been dropped off to see a clear pathway down onto the yard and the teacher on duty where they are. We would like to encourage all children to come onto the yard as soon as they come into school. Children who wait with their parents/grandparents should not be going between their parents and the yard. Parents/grandparents should only be responsible for their child.

We are sure that you will have noticed how busy/congested the playground is at the end of the school day? It would be really helpful if parents could avoid congregating around the gate area as it is difficult to get in and out. Plus at the end of the school day, bus children line up at the gate and it is sometimes very difficult to see who is or isn't in the line!

For this purpose the area immediately in front of the school gate has been 'marked' off and we are asking that parents leave this area totally clear. Please also leave a clear pathway to the gate so exit and entry is easy.

If parents could avoid congregating outside the gate and come into the playground this would also improve safety as often parents have to take their children onto the road to pass those parents waiting outside the gate.

Please also note that the railings on the ramp up to the school entrance are not to be used as a climbing frame. We know that the benches are 'low' for adults but we would really appreciate it if people could refrain from using the tables as seats! Benches are there for seating and again these should not be used as climbing apparatus.

To ease the situation outside the school gate last term we started to allow parents with dogs to wait in the yard. Please be aware if you bring your dog onto the premises then it must be kept tightly on a lead and it would be best if you kept to the periphery of the playground.

Parents should not be using the school car park at any time unless previously arranged with the school.

Reception Class Outdoor Area

As you know children in Reception Class and Year 1 are collected from the Reception Class Outdoor Area at the front of the school at the end of the school day as this is most practical. Can I please ask that parents with younger siblings are respectful of this area? They should not be playing on any of the equipment. This is Reception Class' outdoor classroom and outdoor learning is an important part of the Early Years curriculum. We had several items broken and damaged last year and the cost to repair and replace is expensive.

You will have noticed that Reception Class staff and Mr Jones have been working hard over the summer to improve this area. Younger siblings should not be using or playing on any of the equipment whilst waiting to collect brothers/sisters. Please note that the gate will not be opened before 3.15p.m.

Parking

Parking is an on-going problem that we are always in consultation with the local police and highways about. Please can parents/grandparents make sure that you do not park in the restricted zones and that you do not block access to local residents' properties. Please also make sure that the school car park entrance and side entrance by the school house are clear too. These are access points for all emergency vehicles.

Mobile Phones

An increasing number of children are bringing mobile phones into school. We do have a strict policy regarding this. We appreciate that if children are walking home unaccompanied or get the school bus, then for safety reasons they might need to have their phones. Any phones brought to school must be handed in at the office and they will be kept in a safe place until the end of the day when it is your child's responsibility to come and collect it. If your child does bring their phone to school, please make sure you have signed the school agreement. (*copy available in the Office.*)