

4th September 2020

Day Two / Three

Very many thanks for your support yesterday. The morning seemed to work much better. Key stage 2 children walk to their classroom and the key stage 1 children have a play and go in safely all together. Our reception children have been visiting school and will start full time on Monday 7th September. Their bubble starts at 9.10am.

Using the trim trail as a waiting area has helped to free up space around the entrance so people are now able to leave the site safely and speak to the office staff if necessary. We will continue to ensure siblings go straight to parents who are waiting in the trim trail at the end of the day. This does help to reduce the wait time as much as possible.

Home time was better than day one and hopefully, this will continue to improve as we all get used to new timings and get to know parents at the gate and staff get to know the children better.

In school today, staff are going to remind children who go to Pottery Out of School Scheme (POSS) to go to their bubble leader and children who have siblings waiting in the trim trail to go to their parents. Staff are also going to have a chat to the children about looking out for parents / carers at the gate.

There were a lot of year 5 / 6 who went to meeting points just out of school or walked home together and this helped enormously with the end of the day.

Lunch times are running much smoother and from Monday, we will be in a position to make the year 5/6 lunches slightly later.

On Monday, Belper High School pupils will start back to school. The Headteacher and I had already discussed the potential for congestion around the schools at the end of the day and have put in place measures to try and keep our community as safe as we can.

Some pupils from Belper school will leave school at 2.50pm and the rest at 3.00pm. The year 5/6 pupils leave Pottery at 3.00pm. Clearly there could be added congestion around that time. The High School staff will be speaking with students about supporting the community at the end of the day in the following ways:

- High school students coming past Pottery School will be asked to use the crossing to cross over and use the pavement on the Vaillant side, avoiding the area around Pottery where possible.
- Belper school has produced a map for students showing them where to go.
- Belper School staff will be talking to the students during morning assembly about using the Vaillant side pavement where possible.
- Belper School staff are going to try and support this at the end of the day for the first few days by reminding the students about using the crossings.
- We will have staff just outside the gates at Pottery to support Belper School students who are picking up younger siblings from Pottery and to monitor the situation. These students have been asked to come directly into Pottery, keeping a safe distance from parents/leaving the site.

The Head of Belper School and I do have contingency plans in place if there is still added congestion around Pottery School. Our priority for all our students is their safety.

I am extremely proud of how the children are adjusting being back in school. They are busy in their classrooms, enjoying the outdoor areas and it is lovely to hear their laughter and chatter whilst they are out in the playground. Children are being extremely respectful of social distancing, keeping bubbles separate, washing hands regularly, listening to their teachers and being kind to each other.

Next week, we will be sharing information about reading and homework. Class teachers will also be preparing newsletters for their classes, which will be sent the following week.

As always, I will keep you up to date and informed as much as possible.

Thankyou for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Nicholson (Acting Headteacher)