



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
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Headteacher – Mrs K Mason

19th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write with some important information.

I am extremely grateful to those parents who continue to respect our school expectations at this time. This will help to keep everyone in our school safe, especially as we are still under the restrictions of a **National Lockdown** and new daily cases are still emerging with over 6000 a day in our country.

Your children, whilst in school and in our care, have been outstanding at following the rules. The older children have been respectful of keeping a two metre distance from school staff wherever possible. The bubble system is incredibly time consuming and both staff and children have mastered this due to effective systems and procedures in school throughout the past twelve months of this pandemic. I am incredibly grateful to both the staff and the children for their patience and respect. This again, has kept everyone safe and well.

However, I have a number of parents who are extremely concerned about the behaviour of some of our children, whilst in the care of their parents or guardians, on the school drive. Below are a few lines from one of the communications I have received this week and I felt it important to share with you.

“I was shocked to have stood in the line this afternoon to see children of different ages behaving like wild animals, running all around and in and out of the other parents waiting, play fighting and rolling around on the grass.”

“There was no social distancing being adhered to, no boundaries and no supervision from adults.”

“Two of the things Mrs Mason asked for were no gatherings at the school gates and all children to stay with their parent/carer.”

With the above in mind and in view of the fact we are still in a **National Lockdown** and are facing a very slow road map out of this current situation, I am asking for your full support with the following requests:

- **Please leave the school site swiftly to avoid waiting of any kind, in an effort to help keep everyone safe. Please also make sure any pre-school children are in a pushchair or holding your hand at all times, and that all school children are at your side.**

- Please follow the markings on the school drive as these are mirrored with our markings in the school playground and this will help your child to keep safe by setting a good example.
- Please wear a face covering when collecting and dropping off your child.
- Only **1 adult** per family on the school drive please to keep our numbers as low as possible.
- If you have an older child who leaves the school site unaccompanied please arrange to meet them on Kerry Drive **away** from the school entrance, to help keep everyone safe.
- **Please help everyone to feel safe by not congregating outside the school gates and by keeping a safe distance of 2 metres.**
- **Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling unwell.**
- No dogs please on the school site or around the school gates where people are trying to enter and exit.

I received information yesterday from the Department of Health and Social Care which states that Lateral Flow Tests are **only** to be used for people who show **no** symptoms. Therefore, if you or your child do have any symptoms you should book a Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR) and children will only be allowed back into school once they have received a negative PCR test, **not a negative lateral flow test**.

At Richardson Endowed we have been so successful thus far in keeping everyone safe and it should be the intention of our whole school community to keep it this way.

Please remember also, that the Government made the decision **not** to prioritise the vaccination of school staff and therefore they are still extremely vulnerable to catching this extremely contagious, awful disease.

I am delighted that this afternoon, after speaking with every child in school today, our children carried out exactly what was requested of them; that they stayed at their adult's side and left the site as swiftly as possible. Please thank them for abiding by school expectations and please support us in reminding them to do this at both arrival and departure time **every** day.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Stay safe and look after yourselves and our community.

Kind regards

Mrs K Mason
Headteacher