



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL

Tel: 01462 732002

Email: GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

04 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Two letters in two days – what a treat!

I have been really pleased to have received feedback from parents over the last 12 hours about yesterday's letter. What I didn't convey is that all of the decisions that we have made have not only been made in the interests of safety and the smooth running of the school, but also considering the impact that they will have on parents and carers. Although we might not shout about it, and there may be occasions when it's not obvious, but we constantly consider how our decisions will affect parents and carers.

Aside from the support that has been sent through, we've had a couple of questions about drop off and pick up.

Drop off and pick up times

A couple of parents have spoken about the difficulty that they are now facing (especially those with children in Years Three and Four) when it comes to fitting working hours around different drop off times. We tried really hard to tick all of the boxes of safety, smooth running, reducing educational impact and meeting parental requirements but we know that there will always be some who are disadvantaged.

That being said, we had some really good suggestions last night and this morning about arrival and pick up times and locations for the children in our year groups.

Acorn, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The timings for drop off remain the same but the locations are now all either Acorn gate or the Youth Club Playground.

Years 3 and 4

Your children will now need to be dropped off at the upper staff car park on the opposite side of the school to the main school gates. This is down the lane that goes up to the allotments. Although the times will be limited when you can drop off your children, please can you make sure that when you are lining up you maintain social distancing, whilst also not blocking the public footpath that goes behind the school, nor the private residence of the bungalow, next to school.

Class	Arrival	Arrival	Pick up	Pick up
Nursery Acorn	08:50	Acorn gate	15:20	Acorn gate
Reception Ash	08:40	Youth club playground	15:10	Youth club playground
Reception Oak	08:40	Youth club playground	15:10	Youth club playground
Year 1 Beech	08:45	Youth club playground	15:15	Youth club playground
Year 1 Elm	08:45	Youth club playground	15:15	Youth club playground
Year 2 Willow	08:50	Youth club playground	15:20	Youth club playground
Year 2 Maple	08:50	Youth club playground	15:20	Youth club playground
Year 3 Sycamore	08:45	Upper staff car park	15:25	Youth club playground
Year 3 Chestnut	08:45	Upper staff car park	15:25	Youth club playground
Year 4 Birch	08:40	Upper staff car park	15:30	Youth club playground
Year 4 Hazel	08:40	Upper staff car park	15:30	Youth club playground

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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Youth Club Playground

Please come onto the Youth Club Playground through the gate marked 'ENTRANCE' on the floor and walk down to the crosses at the end of this area. These crosses are two metres apart. Children on the row at the front, when received, will be able to walk down to the gate where they will be greeted by their class teaching staff and taken to line up on the inner playground before the whole class, at the end of their five-minute slot, will be taken to their classroom. Parents and carers should then walk to the right hand side of the playground and around to the gate marked 'EXIT' on the floor, maintaining social distancing as you go.

For all other classes, **it will be really important that you drop off and pick up your child in the 5 minute window that has been set for their year group.** This is to avoid large groups gathering at any time and to enable staff and pupils to move to their classes, within their bubbles, avoiding contact with others. If you are early for a drop off you will be asked to wait for your child's allocated time and if you are late for a drop off there may be a chance that you will be asked to wait until the last drop off when there might be staff available to escort your child individually to their class. Please aim to not arrive early at the school site (or near the school site) and please leave the school site as soon as you have dropped off/picked up your child. We have been asked to pass on any concerns about gatherings of parents/visitors around the school site to the authorities if these end up taking place.

Sibling drop offs and pick ups

If you have children in different classes, all of them can be dropped off at the earlier drop off time, in the one location. If you have a choice of drop off points, and one of them is the Youth club playground, please drop them off here. The exception to this is Acorn Class. Please can all Acorn children be dropped off at their gate by the play park. You can do this between 8:50 and 9:00.

If you have more than one child at school, they will both/all need to be picked up at the earlier pick up time from the Youth Club Playground. Again, the exception is Acorn Class, who will all need to be picked up from their gate between 3:20 and 3:30pm.

Reception drop offs Week 1

As explained in the Reception Year letter yesterday, all drop offs for Ash and Oak Classes next week will be at the front entrance.

Conversations on the gate

We have found conversations on the gate really useful in the past due to the informality and ease with which they can happen. Unfortunately, due to the pressure on movements around the school, and the need to socially distance, we will no longer be able to have these conversations and receive messages on the gate. Please could all messages come through the office on 01462 732002 or GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

Visitors to school

To protect our pupils and staff, we will continue to operate a policy of no unplanned visitors to school. **This includes parents** and will include a prohibition on anyone 'popping in' to the school office. Please contact us through 01462 732002 or GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

Late arrivals

If you have missed your child's arrival time, please can you bring them around to the front of school. You may need to wait with them until a member of staff is available to take them down to class.

Thank you again for your support and for the constructive feedback and questions that we've received.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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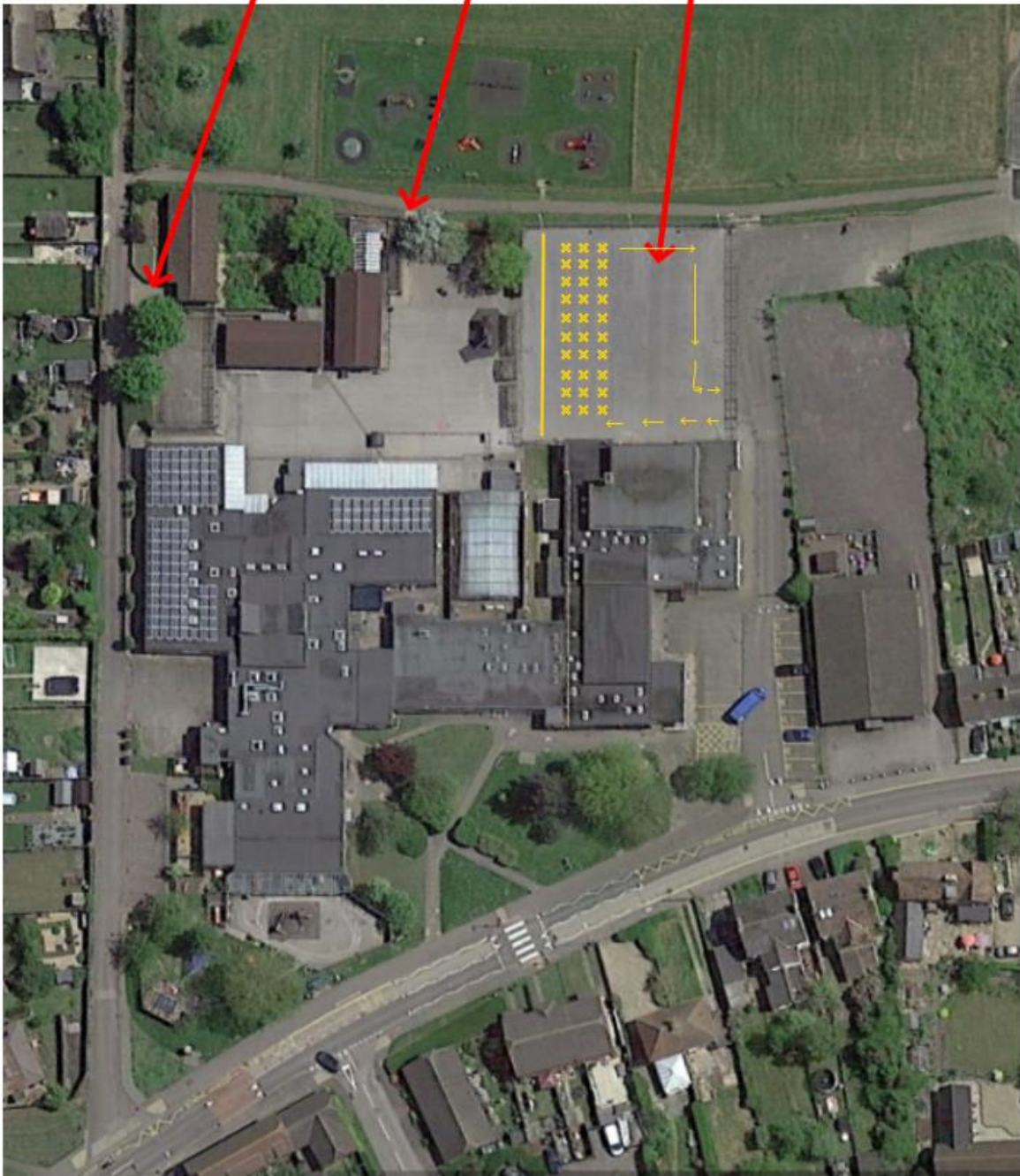
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Upper Staff Car Park

Acorn Gate

Youth Club Playground



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