

Dear Parents/ Carers

We have now been back at school for three complete days and I would like to thank you all for your continued efforts regarding all the arrangements the school has put in place to ensure the safe return to school for all pupils. Without doubt children have been overwhelmingly positive about meeting their new teachers and classes and we are thrilled to see so many happy, confident children getting back into the school routine, feeling safe and ready to learn. We have started the term brilliantly and I am able to secure the site in a timely manner, ready for learning to begin.

Drop off and pick up arrangements have been tweaked to relieve the bottle neck around Yr2 and the narrowing foot path. We are allowing Yr2 children to leave as soon as parents are visibly waiting outside. This is now working well as staff are becoming familiar with families and can match parent and children much quicker. The busiest area is around Yr4 and the Edwardian door access. Children are being released in groups on a rota basis to alleviate the necessity for all parents to be waiting at the same time. Please view the rota which was placed on the wall last Thursday and where possible wait outside of school, if this area is too congested.

Having been out and about over the last few days I have questioned several High School students making their way onto the playground. I understand that younger brothers and siblings may need to be picked up by older siblings but remain concerned that some families are using the school site as a meeting ground. Can I please discourage this at this time to make as much space available for social distancing. Can I also once again request that only ONE family member picks up or drops off at school. All these small things working together will help to keep us all safe and away from each other!!!

You will no doubt have heard via the news of the serious incident that took place yesterday in Kesgrave. An absolutely, horrific incident impacting upon the lives and families of the young people involved, school and community. I have been asked to circulate this letter from The Director of Young People and Children, that was sent to us at school late last night.

Message from Director of Children and Young People's Service.

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will no doubt be aware of the Kesgrave shooting incident that took place earlier this morning (Monday 7 September) in Friends Walk.

We can understand such an incident will have caused concern in the community at Kesgrave High School but to offer you reassurance a teenager has been arrested. This is being treated as an isolated incident by the police and they do not believe that there is a wider threat to the school or local community.

Students and staff are safe in school and will remain in school as expected until the end of the school day. In order to provide reassurance to the school community there will be a police presence as students leave school today and over the next few days.

The victim, a 15-year-old boy, sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to Addenbrooke's Hospital where he is receiving urgent medical attention.

We are aware of some footage/imagery circulating on social media of this morning's incident at #Kesgrave. We'd ask that circulation of such pictures and videos of the incident does not take place. Help us keep you safe. Thank you.

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Jones said: "Following this serious incident our priority is to keep everyone safe."

"We have now made an arrest as part of the investigation and are working with our partners and our schools to ensure that everyone feels safe when they are collecting their children from school this afternoon.

Please be aware that more of our officers will be on patrol and to provide reassurance in the area."

Friends Walk and ThroughJollys remain completely closed off at present and there is a partial closure on Ropes Drive.

Remember, if you as a parent/carer dropping of your child this morning saw any suspicious activity or has information about the incident please contact the Contact and Control Room, quoting reference CAD 58 of 7 September.

Alternatively, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their online form: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Yours sincerely

Allan Cadzow

Corporate Director for Children and Young People

External Threat

At a time, when we have been considering safety, in light of Covid, we are once again reminded that exceptionally rare, but life changing incidents do occur. I would like to reassure you that the school as well as carrying out a termly evacuation drill, also has a policy should there be an incident of an external threat when it is necessary that children and staff all remain inside school until such time as it is safe to leave. This policy had been called our "Lock Down Policy" (we

might need to rename this to avoid confusion now.) Unlike emergency fire drills, this is practised each year and is a means of keeping children and adults indoors in light of an incident outside of the school causing a threat e.g. gas leak, police alert, etc. We will be practising this alert over the coming days. I would like to reassure you all, that this involves children and staff staying in classrooms, making their way inside, should they be outside, pulling down blinds and taking part in calm activities such as story time, sharing class texts. For many younger children, apart from hearing a different bell, they are very much unaware of the practise. Staff will only discuss the activity in age appropriate terms and there will be no direct discussion with children about the Kesgrave based incident, unless initiated by children and only then discussed in an age appropriate manner.

Appointments within school day

We very much hope that parents and carers can arrange for appointments for children outside of the school day but realise that this is not always possible.

Due to the restricted access within bubbles, we are only able to admit children in school through their allocated class doors. The school is requesting, in order to avoid as much disruption as possible, that children are collected or returned to school at the end or beginning of a session. Therefore, should your child have a 10:00am appointment for example, they return to school at 12:45pm if they are in KS1 or 1:15pm for KS2. Likewise, if you have a 2:30pm appointment for a child they are collected at the same specified time.

Due to bubble restrictions, for this same reason, please make sure that your child is fully equipped for the school day at the start of the school day, remembering all their essential items. Please make sure that children know who will be collecting them from school and communicate this to class email addresses in good time.

Use of Seesaw online App

The school will be introducing Seesaw across Yr1- Yr6 to enable parents carers and families and the school to work collaboratively to support children with learning both at school and at home. Sadly, we were at a point of introducing this system way back in March to families but were unable to do so as the circumstances arose. Having returned to school we are anticipating many children will be required to isolate as the cold/ flu season progresses and this App will help to set tasks and keep children learning.

We will be sending out guidance to all a parents about Seesaw which is similar to the Tapestry App already used by children and families in EYFS.

In order to set this up for all children in Yr1 – Yr6, the school will be sending out instructions regarding the downloading of the App and child's home learning code.

Seesaw is used in school by children sending digital work from Ipads to their teacher into a class folder. The App also enables photos to be uploaded and work to be shared. Children are confident using this in school and we will now be extending its use to enable work from school to be sent to parents directly and for work completed at home to be submitted back to class teachers.

A letter with specific information and instruction regarding this will be sent to all families shortly. Please keep an eye out and check book bags for this letter, which will be sent home via your child; this letter will contain your child's personal code.

Reading Challenge

We continue to ask that ALL children read for a minimum of 5 minutes 5 time per week. This is more important now than ever before. Teachers are working exceptionally hard to teach reading, phonics and grammar, getting children back on track. We currently do not have parents and volunteers in school hearing children/ practising their reading, so are very much relying on Parents and Carers to ensure that children have daily reading practise, book talk, and questioning.

Once again, thank you for all your support.

Mrs Ashford

Headteacher