

Junior School

Infant School

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High Down Schools

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High Down Schools

Down Road
Portishead
North Somerset
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Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Cowan

30th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWSLETTER

This year's H&S Newsletter is very different to usual – Covid Security is obviously foremost in our minds, but I also wanted to share some positive developments with you.

I would like to thank you for your support during this time and for abiding by our protocols. These are in place to ensure that, in the eventuality of a positive Covid test, we keep the infection to one 'bubble' and don't spread the virus between children, staff and families.

Covid Security

Please read carefully and follow the guidance to ensure compliance with our risk assessment:

- A mask must be worn at all times whilst on school grounds (including whilst traversing the car park) to reduce the chance of spreading Covid 19
- Remain socially distanced from other parents, children and staff whilst on school grounds and avoid gathering/causing congestion whilst waiting outside and once off the premises
- Stick to the one way routes in and out of the school and to the arrival and collection timings. This will ensure that 'bubbles' are not cross contaminated and, in the event of a positive case, we only need to close one class for 14 days rather than several
- If you are waiting on the path to the Nursery gate for admittance, please stand to the left to allow people walking in the opposite direction to safely pass. North Somerset Council have agreed to put demarcation stencils down the middle of the path but we don't know when this will happen
- As far as possible, one parent only to bring children to school and please keep all children, especially toddlers, with you at all times to avoid crossing other class bubbles. **Please note that children should not be using the play equipment at drop off or collection time.** To abide by our Risk Assessment, staff are cleaning the equipment between different bubbles to avoid cross contamination. We do not have capacity to clean it before playtime and so, with reluctance, we would have to close the whole area to children. Please help us to keep this lovely space open to our children.

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- If you are in a group which traverses the car park, please use the designated walkways and zebra crossings and do not cut between cars for your own safety
- If you have a query, please ring or e mail the school office. If you need to drop in paperwork please use the red post boxes in the school lobby. If you need to drop off a lunchbox or other item during the day please speak to the office staff through the hatch in the lobby
- If your child is ill and you are picking them up early the office staff will care for them until you arrive and then deliver them to you into the lobby
- Please give medicine and completed consent form to the class teacher (outside in the playground in a Covid secure way)

Considerate Driving and Parking

We have been working with our PCSO and North Somerset Council to monitor driving and parking issues around the school. They have asked us to convey the following requests to parents to help ensure our school community stays safe:

- Please be considerate when turning into The Downs or other side roads and do not undercut other vehicles
- Please do not park on the right of The Downs – there is plenty of space further down to park on the left. Generally, please park considerately and not on pavements etc
- Please ensure your children are crossing the road safely, and sticking to the pavement rather than walking on the road

Information about the additional measure brought in by the North Somerset Council to promote social distancing can be found at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/community-safety-crime/emergency-management/emergency-closures/travel-roads/pandemic-changes-road-space>

Public feedback about the scheme can be found at <https://sustrans-uk.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/e5c8d288153846fc8e89d63b51fb5892>

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be used while on the school grounds. The reasons for this include:

- Safeguarding issues with camera phones etc
- Health and Safety issues with people not looking where they are walking or not supervising their children thus risking cross contamination of bubbles
- Inhibition of language development for pupils due to lack of communication

Thank you for your cooperation.

Food Allergies/Intolerances

If your child suffers from an allergy or intolerance and you have not already done so, please could you complete and return an Aspens allergy/intolerance form to the school office together with a doctor's note. These can be posted in the red post boxes in the school lobby.

Nut Free Lunchboxes

Please could you ensure that your child's lunchbox does not contain nuts or nut-related products, as we have children and staff at school with severe allergies.

Infection Control

With the norovirus season approaching could we take this opportunity to remind you that if your child develops symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting you should keep them off school until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours.

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Summer Works

And now the good news!

During the summer break we were able to catch up with our site improvement plans for the year which had been disrupted by the lockdown. Decorating and reflooring took place in several areas, lovely bright murals were painted to welcome everyone back and grounds works were carried out to enhance our environment.

The site team also undertook the huge task of getting classrooms and other areas ready and Covid secure for our return.

I know the level of our rules and protocols seem stringent but it is our best way of keeping us all safe. It will also help us to avoid large sections of the school being forced into a 14 day quarantine which we all want to avoid.

Thank you for helping us to keep all of our children safe at school.

Yours sincerely,



Andrey Cowan
Executive Headteacher

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