

22nd April 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. They have settled so quickly back into the school routines after the Easter break, and are enjoying time outside in the sunshine. I do hope you were all able to enjoy some time with the children over the break. This week my letter is really a list of reminders, so thank you for taking the time to read these.

As we are gradually moving along the Government's road map to release lockdown, may I please remind all parents that currently we are still required to maintain two metres social distance from other people, including when outdoors. We continue to be grateful to all parents who are wearing face coverings on the playground, as this does help to protect us all. The vaccination programme is beginning to have an impact on the spread of the virus, but we are by no means back to pre-pandemic normal! I am sure the children are looking forward to being able to meet with their friends indoors once this is permitted.

The children do need their PE kit for this term, as outdoor PE lessons have resumed. It is too early to begin to have thoughts around a Sports Day, but we will do our best to enable the children to safely experience some sort of athletics competition if at all possible.

As you may have noted from an earlier communication this week, it is so important for all our children that we remain a nut free school. We also teach the children the importance of a healthy balanced diet and the benefits of exercise. May I remind you that breaktime snack and lunchbox contents should be healthy, with fresh or dried fruit for breaktime on Monday to Thursday each week.

Due to the restrictions placed on the school during this time, we are unable to allow the children to share birthday sweets with their peers. We appreciate your support in this matter.

The teachers are looking forward to meeting virtually with you for Parent Consultation next week. Hopefully we not have another power cut! We hope it will be helpful for you to understand those areas where your children are making good progress and those areas in which they need support.

Buckinghamshire Council have asked us to share the following information with you regarding their 'Respect Me' campaign. Please do take a moment to read this. Thank you.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Re Crossing Patrol:

Buckinghamshire Council is very concerned that a small minority of drivers are being increasingly abusive and putting lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres just because they don't want to stop to let people cross safely.

Therefore, the Council is relaunching its 'Respect Me' Campaign in an attempt to protect patrollers from rising levels of abuse, aggression and danger. This includes new coats with the slogan 'Respect Me' on the back and a wider campaign to educate motorists to stop when required.

Recent examples include drivers using abusive language, not stopping when the patroller was already standing in the road and even swerving round the patroller just to get past. There are also other instances where blocked pavements and inconsiderate dropping off or parking by parents, particularly at School Keep Clear markings and at Bus Stops, makes the patroller's job more difficult to maintain safety and hinders the safe route to school.

Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability at Buckinghamshire Council, Ian Thompson said it was disappointing that the council was having to take this action but the protection of school crossing patrollers and all those using the crossings must take priority. "Our lollipop men and women are valuable members of our local school communities and are well-loved and appreciated by the pupils and parents they help. It seems some people are not aware of, or simply ignore, the Highway Code on the meaning of the position of the pole and the appropriate response from a driver. We will always have a zero-tolerance approach to behaviour which threatens the physical or mental wellbeing of our crossing patroller staff or which compromises the safety of those crossing the road."

Drivers must stop when they are shown the STOP 'lollipop' sign, failing to do so when requested can lead to a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and disqualification. Vehicles must also stay stationary until the pole has been lowered and the patroller is back on the pavement.

Ian continued: "As the roads inevitably get busier with pandemic restrictions easing, we hope that communities will continue to support their local patrollers to do their job safely. We need drivers to be patient and considerate - after all it's only asking for a few seconds to ensure everyone crosses safely."

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, please contact: Corinne Randall - Tel: 01296 383432