

Mexborough St John The Baptist C of E Primary School

Together we believe, together we succeed.



Sedgefield Way, Mexborough, South Yorkshire, S64 0BE.

Headteacher: - Mr A Minor



Date: 04.09.2020

PLEASE READ ME!

I would like to start by saying a huge well done to all of our children. They have really impressed me and the staff with their positivity and resilience. It's not easy starting a new school year but they have taken everything in their stride and it's as if they have never been away. Even our youngest children in nursery and reception have been incredibly grown up and brave.

I would also like to thank you for your patience over the past two days. Organising staggered start and finish time for 234 children is challenging and we knew that when everyone started back there would be a few teething problems. Hopefully we are on our way to sorting these out.

Dropping off and picking up at the start of the school day

Although we know that there are improvements to make, the majority of the issues experienced are due to parents and guardians not arriving at their designated time.

I can't stress enough how important it is to stick to these times in order for social distancing measures to work.

If you arrive early at your drop off point, then you are preventing classes with early start times from accessing school safely. If you are early, you will not be able to drop your child off until their designated time. Please wait in your car or perhaps have a walk around the block and 'get your steps in'.

Below are a few changes that we are making:

- F2 will now start at 09:00am. This will help to alleviate congestion and give all Nursery parents longer (15 minutes) to drop off their children.
- Cones have been used to set up a queuing system for parents dropping off children in Y1, Y2, and Y3. This is to alleviate congestion by bringing parents and children on the grassed area at the front of school and away from the pavement and main road.
- When possible, three members of staff will be positioned at the front of school to guide you and help you to queue in the right place. Please be polite and patient with them as they are only trying to keep you and your children safe. I was saddened and disappointed to hear that one parent swore at a member of staff this week.
- The school car park gates will be locked during drop off and pick up times. This is to prevent vehicles using the driveway while you are queuing and waiting.

Sibling Bus Stop

Please only use the Sibling Bus Stop if absolutely necessary. If you only have a five to ten minute wait between drop off, then by the time you have waited to drop off your first child it will be quicker for you to make your way to your next child's drop off point.



E-Mail school@msj.imat.org.uk

Website: - www.mexboroughstjohn.co.uk



I would like to apologise that some of the previous communication about the bus stop has been confusing. I would like to clarify how it will work:

- Drop off your child that starts the earliest first.
- If you only have a short wait, then please wait in your car or make your way to the next drop off point (**as long as it won't interfere with other classes drop offs**).
- If you need to use the bus stop then please wait there with your child. Do not leave your child on their own.
- The members of staff on duty will take it in turns to escort children to their classes. Class groups may be taken in one go. Please be patient as it may take staff a few minutes.

If there is a big time gap between your children's finish times then please collect your children at the latest collection time. E.g. if you have a child in Y1 who finishes at 3:10pm and a child in year 3 that finishes at 2:50pm you should collect both children at 3:10. Individual letters will be sent to families affected by this to give further clarification next week.

Breakfast Club

After a huge change to our breakfast club area the children have adapted really well and have enjoyed spending time with children in their bubble. We are very proud of how they have embraced the changes.

Absence Line Reminder

Just a reminder- If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please telephone the school office/absence line on 01709 582619 before 9.15am on the morning of every absence. If no contact is made school will attempt to make contact with you.

School Values and Rewards

When children are seen to be actively following our school values, they receive a bead to put in the values jars. Last year the school council worked with all classes to choose prizes that would be awarded to all children once a jar is full.

Due to lockdown, our values jars were not filled. As we only have two of our old values after changing them this year, we decided to empty all of the collected beads into these. The jars for 'respect' and 'hope' are now full. Each class has opened their prize envelope and will be enjoying a pizza party one afternoon next week. This treat may be changed in F2 and Nursery to make it more appropriate for their age.

Next week we will open the prize envelope under the 'hope' jar and let you know what the children have earned. Following this we will start to fill our values jars once again. Our new values are: hope, honesty, forgiveness, respect and stewardship. More information about what these mean to us can be found on our website.

Our Approach to Behaviour

This year we are launching our new behaviour policy. This is based on a restorative justice approach to resolving conflict and preventing harm. Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right.

Please look at our policy on our website to find out more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important newsletter and I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Minor

