

STAKEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

East Ford Road,
Stakeford,
Choppington,
Northumberland, NE62 5TZ



Headteacher – Mrs J.A.Hall
Assistant Headteacher – Mrs S. Bewick
Tel: 01670 812369
www.stakeford.northumberland.sch.uk

Important – Please Read

23rd September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes to Arrival and Collection Times

In last week's update letter, I mentioned that school staff had been discussing changes to the drop off and collection times but that these had been put on hold while we waited for clarification of informal childcare arrangements under the local lockdown restrictions.

Now that we know that existing informal childcare arrangements with grandparents are still allowed, **from Monday 28th September** we will be reducing the overall arrival and collection times from 1 hour to 30 minutes in the hope that this will help those parents with multiple drop off/collection times. It will also mean that some children who have to leave early as a result of this, do not miss up to two hours per week curriculum time.

The current arrangements for Reception, Nursery and Little Explorers remain the same. The table below shows the changed times for all other year groups:

| | Entrance/Exit | Arrival | Collection |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Year 1 | Main Entrance | 8:40 – 8:50 | 2:40 – 2:50 |
| Year 2 | Classroom | 8:30 – 8:40 | 2:30 – 2:40 |
| Year 3 | Main Entrance | 8:40 – 8:50 | 2:40 – 2:50 |
| Year 4 | Main Entrance | 8:50 – 9:00 | 2:50 – 3:00 |
| Year 5 | Main Entrance | 8:30 – 8:40 | 2:30 – 2:40 |
| Year 6 | Main Entrance | 8:30 – 8:40 | 2:30 – 2:40 |

Families who were previously texted with their children's combined arrival and collection times, will receive a text tomorrow to confirm their new combined time.

Parent's Evening Arrangements

We will be unable to hold parents evening meetings as face to face consultations for the foreseeable future. This term's meetings will take place as telephone consultations. Teaching staff will contact you shortly via email to ask you to complete a short time preference questionnaire and then they will send you a specific time for the day they are doing their meetings. Because school only has one telephone line, staff will be using school mobile phones. They will inform you of the telephone number that the call will come from when they set your consultation time. Telephone consultations will only last 10 minutes.

SEN and Interventions

Last week senior leaders collected and analysed baseline data to gain an understanding of where pupils were in relation to their expected outcomes for the last academic year. Understandably this was a very mixed picture given that the lockdown affected children in different ways.

In the next two weeks you may receive a letter and an SEN pupil passport or support plan if your child is to receive any catch-up interventions in English or Maths, or to support their social/emotional needs. These plans can be discussed as part of your parent consultation telephone discussion with the class teacher.



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Home/School Respect

As adults, we are expected to set the models of behaviour we would see our children follow. My staff are bound by a code of conduct and we will always speak to parents and family members calmly and with respect.

At the present time we are all facing constant changes to rules and guidelines and we fully appreciate, and thank, all parents and family members who accept that our hands are tied and we MUST follow guidelines – we have no choice. Everything we do is to keep our pupils, our staff and you safe whilst on our premises. Thank you so much for your understanding and support.

Over the past week, I have sadly had reported to me that some of my support staff who are managing arrivals and collections have been subjected to verbal abuse when parents and family members have not been happy if reminded to follow rules and restrictions. Other parents have witnessed these exchanges and have been shocked by how staff have been spoken to and by some of the very personal things that have been said. I am proud to say that those witnesses have also said that the staff concerned were calm, polite and firm, in the face of unpleasantness.

We will always treat you with respect and we ask the same courtesy in return. We know that this whole situation is frustrating for everyone and I really do not want to have to go down the route of banning individuals from the premises to protect staff wellbeing, but I will.

New Website Page

This week a new page will be added to the 'Parent' area of the school website. This page is entitled 'Covid-19 Information'. This page will be used to provide you with direct links to governmental advice and school updates and documents. If there is anything you would like us to include, please let us know via email to the admin email address.

Temporary Staff Changes

From Monday 28th September 2020 a new member of teaching staff will be joining Bubble 2 in the Year 1 class. Mrs Stuart, will be teaching Year 1 pupils in the afternoons to release Mrs Bewick to perform leadership and management tasks until Christmas. This has become necessary due to the increased managerial workload arising from the recent lockdown.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, patience and understanding. Working together we will get our pupils safely through this strange and difficult time.

Yours sincerely

J. A. Hall
Headteacher

