

Website: [www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/)

Tuesday 8th September 2020.

Help us to keep our School Community safe.



Dear Parents/ Legal Guardians,

Thank you to so many of you who have sent messages to school or spoken to staff expressing how happy they are with the safety measures we are putting in place to ensure we protect our School and its wider Community from COVID 19.

As you know I have communicated the current government guidance on numerous occasions. Particularly with regards to children being dropped off and picked up from school and for reference I have included copies of two of the most recent communications for quick reference: Email from 2nd September

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I have had a number of families who have asked if their children can be picked up or dropped by different people which may have been the case before re-opening in September 2020.

I have sought advice regarding my interpretation of the Department of Education Guidance which we must comply with.

I have been advised and reminded that the current guidance has not changed in this instance and the rules are:

If you are picking up or dropping off children on our school site this can only be done if -

The person is a Grandparent who is part of your support bubble.

The person is a paid child minder / nanny who is not looking after children from a different school or setting.

The person is a member of your household or support bubble.

While I appreciate that this may cause difficulties in beginning and end of day arrangements we are expected to follow DFE guidance in order to continue to keep our children safe as we have done while the school remained open to some pupils from March 20th.

Email from Sunday 6th September

Thank you to everyone in how positively you are all supporting us following all the rules and regulations that have been stipulated for us to follow. A couple of links to such guidelines ae listed below.

[gov.uk/backtoschool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA4MjguMjYyNTE3NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvd2hhdC1wYXJlbnRzLWFuZC1jYXJlcnMtbmVlZC10by1rbm93LWFib3V0LWVhcmx5LXllYXJzLXByb3ZpZGVycy1zY2hvb2xzLWFuZC1jb2xsZWdlcy1kdXJpbmctdGhlLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzLWNvdmlkLTE5LW91dGJyZWFrP3V0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj1EZkUrQzE5JnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.MmyLWIfzZn4leCFH3NVWQyO_0Uib0An6kBvHRM8UTUY/s/741013521/br/82940997757-l)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

I do appreciate that such guidelines, especially with regards to close family members who do not live in the child’s household, are particularly tricky with regards to helping out with childcare as many of you continue or return to work.

However, whilst I am not given any powers to physically enforce this rule, as currently school pick-ups and drop off take place off school property, for the safety of our school and wider community I would appeal to you that it if you could help us to keep our children safe and follow these guidelines it would be appreciated. Only where there is no other alternative possible should you arrange for other family members to pick up and drop off your child

It has taken a lot of additional work for the school staff to have maintained a COVID secure school site since March 20th and with your help and support we can continue to do so. It is also important that we help keep our school and wider community safe as many of whom may have medical conditions that make them extremely vulnerable.

Finally, please understand that everyone of us in school are following guidelines that have been given to us from Public Health England and the Government , therefore it is imperative that we continue to be treated with kindness and respect and that myself and governors will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse. Incidents of this nature may result in you being asked to leave school site and further action can be enforced.

Thank you for your support,

Belinda Athey. Headteacher.