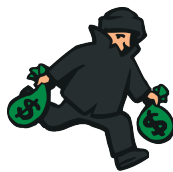




Boo Tesco!

Last week a Tesco delivery van, having delivered to the nursery, tried to follow a car through the exit barrier but didn't make it and the barrier came down on top of the van. The driver stopped briefly and then drove off. The barrier was broken and it will cost us over £500 to repair.

Tesco won't admit liability and we are having to deal with their insurers to try to get the money from them. We have to prove that their driver hit the barrier! If you witnessed the incident—and I know that some parents did—could you please pop into the office and let us know because we may need you to make a statement about what happened!



Every Little Helps doesn't it?

Hooray Sainsburys!

Sainsbury's are re-launching their active kids vouchers. You will be able to collect them in store and online from 28th January - 5th May. We will be collecting the vouchers again this year and as always will be extremely grateful of donations.

Over the last 10 years we have used these vouchers to purchase a wide range of sporting equipment, gardening and outdoor resources, various cooking equipment, as well as external coaching sessions.

Dropping Off

Please, please don't leave your children unaccompanied on the school site early in the morning. We have had children left in the car park before 7.30am, waiting for the Breakfast Club to open and we have had children waiting around on the site from 8.20am, waiting for the gates to open at 8.40am.

There is no supervision of the site before 8.40am. Please don't let your child come to school unaccompanied before that time as we can't be responsible for their safety. The site itself is open prior to then so that people can go to and from the nursery and the Breakfast Club, and therefore it is possible to walk onto the site before 8.40am. However, there is no supervision and I would urge you to not let your children arrive at school before 8.40.

We still have one vacancy for a gate guardian. Two of our three pedestrian entrances are policed from 8.40, so that children can't leave the site once you have dropped them off—but we still have one gate unsupervised. If you would be interested in this role, which is paid from 8.35-9.05, please call in at the school office and let us have your details.

Parent Information Sessions

Thank you to the parents who attended the information sessions which our teachers put on to explain how we teach maths, spelling, reading and writing. The teachers put a great deal of their own time into preparing these sessions and I thank them for their hard work. We had an average of 15 parents at each session and I know that they found the information very useful. Please try to support these type of events—we had to cancel one session due to a lack of interest—as we organised them in response to your requests for guidance in how to support your children at home.

Drinking Water

Having sorted out the electricity issues at the school, we are now trying to address the problems we have with drinking water! Our water pipes are very old and unfortunately they are rusting. Because of this we have ongoing issues with our drinking water, which occasionally has a brown tinge to it.



With the water standing idle during the Christmas break whilst the electricity was off and the pumps weren't operating, the problem got worse and we had quite a considerable amount of rust in the water. Obviously it clears if we let the water run for a while before using it, but the situation isn't ideal. Hence, we are getting quotes to replace the pipes, but the cost will be far in excess of £10,000 and we will need to find the money from the next school budget to fund this. Consequently it won't happen for many months.

In the interim we will tell the children to let the water run for a while before re-filling their water bottles. We are also investigating the possibility of having water dispensers in classrooms for the children to use until the issue is fully resolved.

Playground Changes

You may have noticed that the benches in the play huts have been refurbished and that two new gates have been installed in the gaps separating the Lower School playground from the main playground. The gates will allow us to secure the Lower School playground when we begin to use it as the outdoor Reception classroom later in the Spring.

We'll begin using it as the outdoor classroom because we expect to begin building the extension on the existing Reception outdoor area in April/May. We received planning permission at the end of January so we are now getting ready to start the construction phase. This extension will give us a much needed medical room and disabled toilet, as well as a new office area and enlarged entrance way. However, it will also cause chaos during construction as it will block off the main entrance to the school office!



Once we have appointed builders, we will liaise with them and decide how we are going to organise access for you during the construction period. Once we have these details finalised, we will let you know.

Over the next few weeks, you can expect to see more changes on the Lower School playground as we prepare to make it suitable as an outdoor classroom.

Car Park

Can I please reiterate that parents are not allowed to drive onto the school site. The car park is extremely crowded, which makes it dangerous. We installed the barriers to control access to the site. The 'In' barrier goes up automatically, but the 'Out' barrier will only go up if you insert a token into the control gate. If you drive onto the site and have to get a token from the office, we will charge you £2. **Please do not drive onto the site—it is dangerous for both children and adults to have cars manoeuvring in such an over crowded car park.**

The only exceptions to this rule are parents who are disabled themselves or who have a disabled child. In these circumstances you simply need to visit the school office, show us your blue badge and we will provide you with a fob to allow you free access to the site.

In addition, if you or your child are temporarily disabled—i.e. the child breaks their leg, come and tell us and we will give you a fob for as long as you need it. Finally, if we call you and ask you to come and pick your child up because they are unwell, you can drive onto the site. We don't expect ill children to walk across to the Chimney's car park.

But if you're coming to pick your child up for a routine appointment, or you are dropping off a forgotten lunch box etc, you are expected to park off site. You will be charged for a token if you park on site in these circumstances.

The barriers are only in operation after 8.20 in the morning. Hence, you are very welcome to drive onto the site up to 8.15am, to drop children off at the Breakfast Club. The barriers operate from 8.20am because that is when the teaching assistants arrive at work and we then need to limit the vehicular movements. The barriers stop operating at 4.45, and again, you are welcome to drive onto the site after this time, because the site is virtually clear of pedestrians by 4.45.



Please cooperate with us. There were 3 accidents in the car park in the year before we installed the barriers. We have taken the steps we have to try to ensure everyone's safety.

Inset Days!

We had 2 Inset days still to set. These have now been decided and will be **Friday 5th June and Friday 17th July**. The final one was already set as **Friday 24th July**.

I hope this gives you enough notice to organise supervision for your children on these days.