

8th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the time that has been spent thinking of alternatives and making suggestions to help streamline our drop off and pick up routine.

At present we are admitting Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y6 at 8:45am and Y4 and Y5 at 9:00am (the children in the Reception classes will also join this 9:00am group when they start full time in a few weeks) As you can appreciate, admitting so many children to the building whilst managing social distancing is tricky. In addition it is vital that we follow government guidance in order to mitigate risk which states that all children must wash their hands both after arriving at school and before leaving school in addition to many other times in the day.

The staggered start allows for each year group to come in to the building, put their things safely in the cloakroom and use the toilets before the next group arrive.

It is also not possible to split 7 year groups equally across 2 drop off sessions, hence the reason for the school being split in to 4 and 3 for each drop off and collection session.

Whilst markings on the car park may appear to offer a solution, we know these will only work if they are enforced and we simply do not have the staff to do this as staff are needed within the building to keep the children safe and we are therefore relying on parents and carers to ensure that they observe the distancing advice while on site. While markings on the ground may appear helpful – they also restrict movement as people feel unable to move from their 'spot' to pass others / leave the site.

We would like to remind parents that the UKs definition of 'close contact' is 'spending 15 or more minutes within 2m distance'. This is why we urge parents to spend as little time as possible on the school site: arriving no more than 5 minutes before the allocated drop off time; dropping off their children and leaving immediately. Adults are also more than welcome to wear masks while dropping off and collecting children should they wish to do so if they feel unable to maintain 2m distance while on the playground.

We must also repeat our request that children are dropped off at school by **one adult only** and that the children remain with that adult and are not allowed to play with other children / congregate around the gates prior to them opening.

Growing together on our learning journey

Headteacher: Mrs L Buckley
Deputy Headteacher: Miss J P Heald
Loatlands Primary School, Harrington Road,
Desborough, Northamptonshire, NN14 2NJ
T: 01536 506404
E: parents@loatlandsprimary.net
W: www.loatlandsprimary.net



All of these measures will reduce the risk to both yourself and your children. However, we are reliant on the social responsibility of all adults on site to protect themselves and others as we are unable to allocate additional school staff to enforce such rules.

We are confident that, having conducted thorough risk assessments regarding the re-opening of the school, as long as the above is adhered to, we are mitigating the risk as far as possible while also minimising the impact on children's education and the disruption to parents.

We will closely monitor the situation tomorrow and if there is no improvement, notify you in writing on Thursday of the new procedures that will take effect from Monday 14th September so that you have time to make alternative arrangements should they be necessary.

Extra measures are likely to include further extending the staggered start and end to the day (admitting and dismissing only 2 year groups at any one time and therefore potentially having to introduce a 9:15am drop off and 3:30pm collection); introducing a one-way system whereby the gates at the very front of the school are not opened until each allotted time and parents and children will queue and enter the site single file, following a one way route and parents exiting by the other gate. This system would also mean that parents dropping off children in multiple year groups would be required to leave the site and re-enter for each child.

We feel sure that by working together we can make the current system work, but as always the health and safety of our pupils, staff and community will be at the heart of all our decision making.



Mrs Laura Buckley
Headteacher
Loatlands Primary School

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Registered Office: Greening Road, Rothwell, Northamptonshire NN14 6BB



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