



Friday 2nd September, 2022

New School Year – Autumn 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday. We hope that you have enjoyed a happy, restful summer and that your child is excited about their return to school, seeing their friends, class staff and beginning their year in a new year group and classroom.

Next week, our new reception classes start at Bowmansgreen, joining the rest of the school for half a day on Monday (9.15 – 11.30am) and gradually building up to their first full day, on Friday. We are looking forward to working with our new families and supporting our youngest pupils throughout their first year at school.

So much change has taken place since the end of last term – both within Bowmansgreen and in the outside world! There are a few key changes and pieces of information that I would like families to know, ahead of Monday.

Parking

You may have noticed that the proposed [parking restriction order](#) is now in effect on Telford Road and Manor Road.

Road markings at the school entrance indicate: no stopping between 8am and 5pm

Restrictions on the single yellow lines: no waiting Mon – Fri 8am - 9am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Double yellow lines – no waiting at any time

These restrictions might make your school run a slightly longer, more stressful event for a while and may involve having to park somewhere different to where you have parked for years. Ultimately, these changes will make the school drop-off and pick-up safer for pedestrians, drivers and local residents but we appreciate that it may take some getting used to, for our school community.

When we changed the use of our school gates, due to COVID guidance (restricting the back gate to independent travellers only and using the Key Stage 1 playground as the drop-off/pick-up point for all other families) we did not anticipate some of the benefits it would have for our pupils. The start and end of the school day is now much calmer, more settled and productive; pupils have embraced and enjoy the additional responsibility and independence of walking themselves into school with classmates. Learning starts more promptly in the morning and less

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teaching time is lost at the end of the day as there are less distractions for pupils. Cars are also parked for a shorter period of time because the drop-off and pick-up process is quicker.

It was never our intention to keep those arrangements longer term however we had not anticipated their positive impact upon pupils. Other factors that we have also taken into account relate to the new medical centre, at the rear of the building.

Access at the back gate is now more restricted due to the proximity of the medical centre to the school site and the new pathway which is narrower than the previous one. The new car park (which is currently being dug up and re-laid) is intended for the use of the medical centre and Caledon Club staff and visitors – it is not intended for school run parking. The Parish Council recommends that school families use the Co-op car park so that the medical centre spaces are available to patients. Restricting the back gate to independent travellers has also helped to limit the number of school families parking in the medical centre car park, in line with the preference of the parish council.

We will therefore continue to restrict the back gate to Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 independent travellers only and maintain the current drop-off/pick-up arrangements on the Key Stage 1 playground. We will monitor the impact of the new parking restrictions and review these arrangements at half-term.

Start of day

To help alleviate some of the initial pressures caused by the new parking restrictions, we will be trialling a new start time of 8.30am, from Monday. Gates will open at 8.30am and continue to close at 8.45am, extending the drop-off time by five minutes. Pupils who arrive to school after 8.45am will, as before, be marked in as late. This trial will take place until half term.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child arrives to school on Monday in full school uniform. We encourage but do not insist on logoed items, helping to keep costs down. A review of our school uniform policy has not resulted in any changes to clothing or footwear and will be distributed to all families, next week.

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. A Lippa
Headteacher

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