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'Success in Spirit through our School'

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Lesley Grady

Monday 9th October 2017

Dear Parents,

Morning Routine

Having spoken to the Governors I believe that a few parents are unhappy with the re-introduction of the children lining up on the playground in the morning. I'd like to take this opportunity to explain the school's reasoning for returning to the original routine that was set up when the school opened.

When I first came to the school, I asked the staff about the routines for the day. They explained that, due to a safety issue with the veranda, the children had to come in via the front door. This was the only reason why it had been changed and it was never going to be a long standing arrangement. Now that the veranda is safe, they asked if it could be returned to the previous way as they had several concerns. These concerns were:

- The staff were worried about safeguarding issues as the front door was being propped open to allow the children and parents to come in. This meant that a child could go out without us knowing or that a stranger could walk into the school. This was especially a concern when a child was being dropped off by someone unknown to the school. Staff are always vigilant and will challenge anyone who they do not know, but by using visitor passes, this reduces this risk further. The children know that all adults should be wearing a pass.
- The lessons were starting later and later each day. At least 10 minutes were being lost every day. They were unable to complete the register and lunch order quickly in order to start lessons. Over the period of a year, this would equate to a substantial amount of time.
- The children were being distracted by having parents in the classroom and were not settling to the morning routine as quickly as they had done previously. Again, time was being lost and incidents were occurring.
- The corridors were congested and there was a worry that an accident would occur and someone would get hurt.



- It wasn't encouraging the children to be independent nor allowing morning routines to be established.
- It was distracting for the other children to see a parent bringing in a child when they were late.

I truly appreciate that you want your children to be happy and settled in school and that is exactly what the staff and I want too. It is common for the younger children to have a few tears when they first come to school in September. I can assure you that the children very quickly stop crying once they are in school and are into their routines. Waving Mum or Dad off in the playground and walking in with friends is the easiest and quickest way of preventing this anxiety. If any child was to continue to be upset, I would be contacting the parent immediately to discuss how this distress could be resolved. All the children have settled very quickly. It is wonderful to see all the classes having completed the register and lessons started within five minutes of being in school. This is credit to the parents, staff and children.

If you would like to discuss this further with myself, the door is always open.

Mrs Lesley Grady
Acting Head Teacher

