

Darvel Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Kirsty Doncaster

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Dear Parent/Carer

16.8.21

We hope you have all had a lovely summer. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school on Thursday 19th August. Whilst some restrictions have eased in the wider community the school will maintain the safety measures that were in place prior to the summer holiday for the time being. It is hoped that these can be further relaxed when it is safe to do so following guidance from the government. The information below is similar to the information issued last August so pupils are familiar with it. The main thing that will have changed for them is where they line up.

Transport and Arrival of Pupils

School transport will run as normal and pupils should access their assigned transport in the usual way. Where pupils are dropped off at school by car, we respectfully ask that this is not directly at school gates, or *on the hill next to the school* to prevent entry areas becoming overcrowded. Clearly this will not be the case for young people with additional support needs who require to be dropped off in school proximity. Your child does not require a face covering for school transport, but is absolutely welcome to wear a covering should they prefer to do so. If you have any taxi queries please contact Miss McFadden in the school office.

P2-P7 Information on entering the playground at the beginning of the day

***P1 see additional information below**

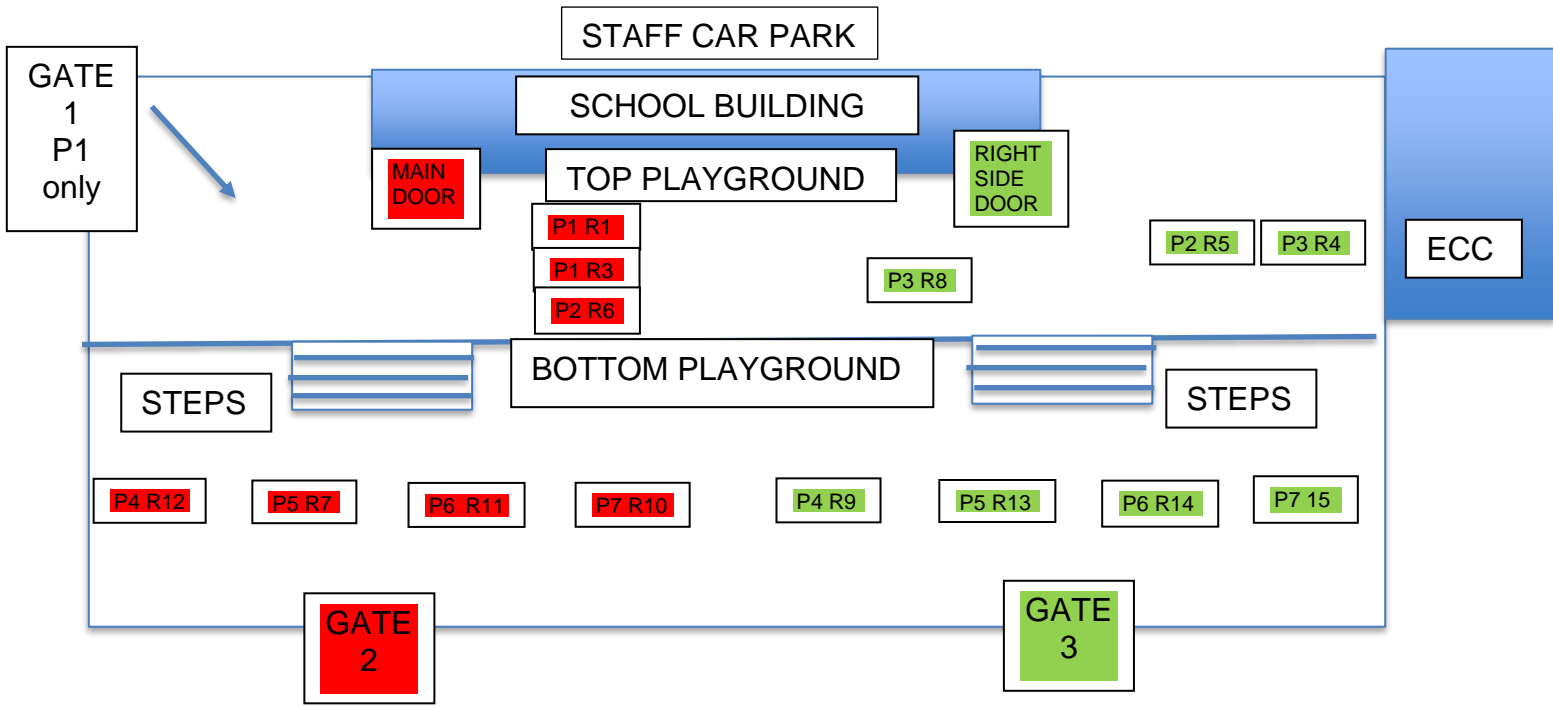
*All pupils will start school at 8.55am. Pupils should only be in the playground prior to a few minutes before this. Playground supervision is from 8.45am.

Pupils from P2-P7 should enter via the lower playground gates and ensure they stay in their class line/area. They should not run about and mix with other classes. They should wait in their area in their playground until an adult takes them into school. Please note that parents/carers are not allowed to be in the playground when dropping off their children.

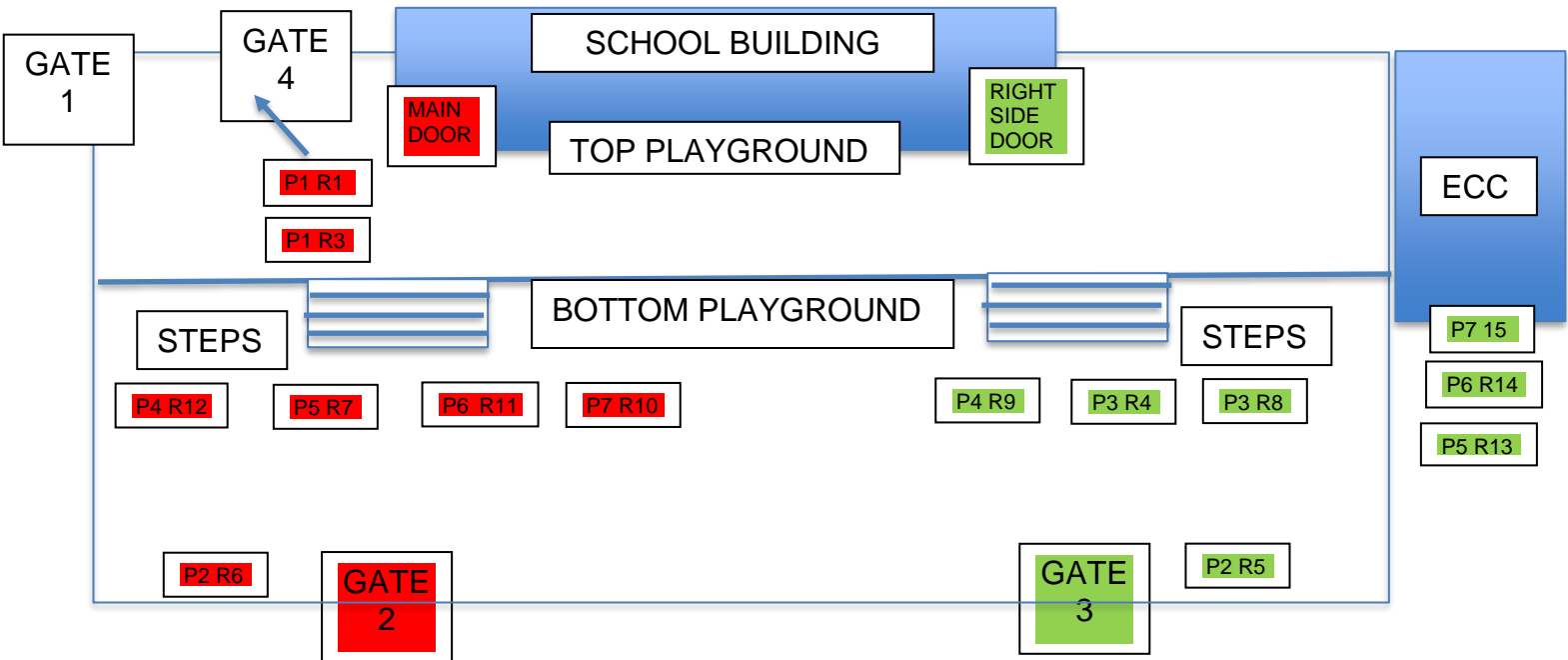
Areas have been allocated for pupils to line up in. Classes in RED should enter via the main door. Classes in GREEN should enter via the right side door.

Please make sure that your child is aware of these new arrangements before coming to school.

PLAYGROUND DIAGRAM – NEW LINE UP AREAS FOR CLASSES DROP OFF 8.55am



PLAYGROUND DIAGRAM – NEW LINE UP/EXIT AREAS FOR CLASSES PICK UP 3.00 pm



We also need to make parents aware that they should not enter the playground due to the guidelines. (P1/P2 information is different)

P2 Information on leaving the playground at the end of the day

P2 pupils still need to be collected by an adult at the end of the school day - pupils must be collected by only 1 responsible adult. Last session all P2 pupils were dismissed a few minutes before the bell and all of the P3 – P7 pupils. This worked well as it reduced congestion and it will continue when we return on Thursday.

P2 R5 parents should enter via GATE 3, collect your child and you must exit via GATE 3.

P2 R6 parents should enter via GATE 2, collect your child and you must exit via GATE 2.

If you have children in both P1 & P2 then your P2 pupil should go to the top playground to meet you at 3pm.

P3 - P7 Information on leaving the playground at the end of the day

P3-P7 parents should wait out with the playground, arranging with their child where to meet them. P3-P7 pupils should exit via GATE 2&3. Please make sure your child knows where you will be waiting for them and that they know if their adult is not there that they should return to the school building to alert a member of staff. If pupils are walking home on their own they should do so quickly and safely.

School staff will bring all pupils out to their allocated areas for 3.00pm to ease congestion at the end of the school day and classes will be dismissed separately.

P1 Information on entering the playground at the beginning of the day

P1 pupils only can enter via the top gate (GATE 1) in the upper playground.

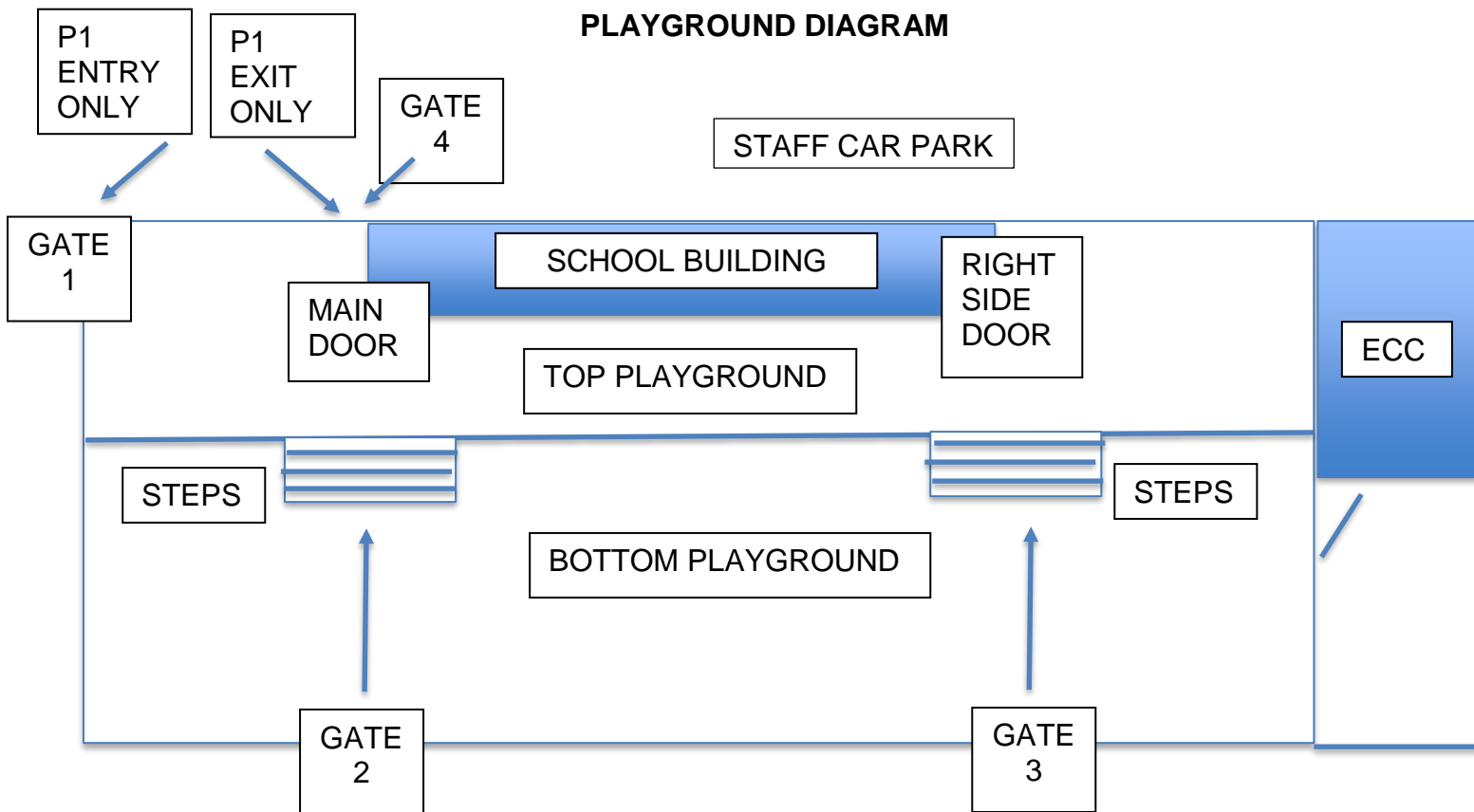
We realise that our new P1 pupils and parents could be very anxious or worried about starting school. To support this we would like to offer parents the opportunity to accompany their children into the playground for the first two weeks. We hope that this helps ease any worries you may have. We will obviously have to ask for your help to manage this in a safe way. When you arrive you will be guided to a marked area of the playground to ensure social distancing. It would help us if you could remain in that location until it is time for the children to go into school. This is an opportunity for you to take a photograph on their first day at school and we will support you and your child with this on Thursday morning.

Unfortunately, under current guidelines we will not be able to allow P1 parents into the classroom on the first day.

We realise this is not the way we had hoped for P1 to be starting school but we need to keep everyone safe and we hope this helps ease the transition.

P1 Information on leaving the playground at the end of the day

P1 pupils should be collected from the top playground at the end of the school day. There will be a one way system in place at pick up times. See diagram. Enter GATE 1 Exit GATE 4. Please take extra care on exiting GATE 4 through the edge of the staff carpark. Please keep to the left fence as you exit.



Emergencies

In accordance with government guidelines, parents will not be able to enter the school, and arrangements will be made with you directly should an emergency occur and you are required to come to collect your child. Please make sure your contact numbers are up to date.

Break & Lunch Times

We continue to have two staggered times for breaks and two staggered times for lunch break. Pupils need to bring their own snacks for break time as there will be no catering at this time. P1 & P2 pupils will eat their lunches in the small hall, P3 – P7 pupils will eat their lunches in their classrooms.

Pupils can bring in a packed lunch from home or can have a school meal delivered to their classroom. All P1-4 pupils are entitled to a free school lunch Pupils will eat lunch in class and then go outside (weather permitting) to play.

A reminder that we are a nut free school. Pupils should not bring in any foods that contain nuts – nut spreads, chocolate bars and nut cereal bars.

Breaks and lunch times have been carefully planned to maximise pupil space outside and to ensure enough adults are available to supervise in all classrooms when children are eating and to supervise the playground.

BREAK AND LUNCH ROTA BELOW

BREAK	TOP PLAYGROUND	BOTTOM PLAYGROUND
BREAK 1 10.20-10.40	P1 P7 (BUDDIES)	P3 P4

A 10 MINUTE GAP HAS BEEN BUILT IN TO ALLOW CHANGEOVER TIME FOR PUPILS		
BREAK 2 10.50-11.10	P2 P5a	P5b P6
LUNCH		
LUNCH 1 1215– 13.00	12.15 P1 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	12.38 P1 OUTSIDE TOP PLAYGROUND	
	12.15 P3 OUTSIDE TOP PLAYGROUND	
	12.38 P3 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
LUNCH 2 13.00 - 13.45	12.15 P4 OUTSIDE BOTTOM PLAYGROUND	
	12.38 P4 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	12.15 P7 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	12.38 P7 OUTSIDE BOTTOM PLAYGROUND AND HELPING AS P1 BUDDIES*	
	13.00 P2 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	13.22 P2 OUTSIDE TOP PLAYGROUND	
	13.00 P5A EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	13.22 P5A OUTSIDE BOTTOM PLAYGROUND	
	13.00 P5B OUTSIDE TOP PLAYGROUND	
	13.22 P5B EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	
	13.00 P6 BOTTOM PLAYGROUND	
	13.22 P6 EAT LUNCH IN CLASS	

*P7 pupils will buddy new P1 pupils for the first couple of weeks.

Parent Pay

More than ever we need to encourage you to use our Parent Pay system if you wish to purchase a school lunch for your child. Please speak to Miss McFadden in the office if you need any help with this.

School Bags

Pupils can bring in a schoolbag if they wish. All pupils will be provided with a kit bag full of resources they will need throughout the school day. Please do not send in a pencil case with your child or send in any toys.

Labels on clothing

As always please make sure that your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled.

Uniform/Clothing Guide/PE

We would like all pupils to wear their school uniform to school. We are now allowed to have PE indoors therefore pupils will need black gym shorts and gym shoes however they will still also access the outdoors for PE at times. Earrings must be removed for all gym activities and staff are not allowed to do this therefore please ensure that either a parent/carer removes earrings before the school day or that pupils are able to do so themselves.

We are hoping to access the outdoors more this session so can we please ask that pupils have a warm outdoor jacket with a hood and perhaps wellies if needed, if you have them. Teachers will inform parents of PE and outdoor learning days.

School shoes and trainers – please help your child to learn to tie their own shoelaces if they have laces in their shoes.

Parental Entry to building

During this challenging time we still need to make sure that parents can get in touch with the school. The preferred method of communication is always face to face however we are unable to allow parents in the building at this time as per the guidelines. In the meantime we would ask that all parents phone before they come to school if possible. On occasion, to support the wellbeing of pupils parents may be able to enter the school.

The entrance foyer is marked out with social distancing markers and hand gel is available. Please press the buzzer and wait on the marked area in the foyer to allow office staff to assist you.

Teachers and other school staff will be unable to have a chat with you when they are bringing in pupils or dismissing them. Please call the school office and we will be happy to arrange a chat over the phone.

COVID-19 Management

- Please do not send your child to school or ECC if they, or any of your household, have symptoms of COVID-19, please alert us to this immediately should this occur.
- Please arrange to pick your child up from school immediately if you are contacted to advise that they are symptomatic, and follow subsequent medical advice. Schools have to ensure that any child/young person who is symptomatic is taken home as soon as possible.

As a final helpful list to parents, can you please support us by:

- Reinforcing hygiene measures and social distancing with your child(ren).
- Having your child bring tissues to school to capture any coughs or sneezes.
- Ensuring your child does not bring unnecessary items to school.
- Working with your school in a positive way, even if things are difficult, we all want to help.
- Reinforcing positive relationships between children and our staff.
- Not dropping children off directly at school gates (where possible), this will help us prioritise this space for young people with additional support needs who require this access.
- Understanding that we are not permitted to allow visitors to school buildings, other than in emergency or other exceptional circumstances.

Please email me at the school if you have any questions and we will do our best to help. Arrangements above will be subject to ongoing review and we will keep you updated if we need to change anything.

We look forward to seeing you all,

Kindest regards,

KDoncaster.

Mrs K Doncaster
Head Teacher