



**ST. MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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Mr A Hutcheson, Head Teacher

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Thank you for preparing the children so well for their return to school. The soft start from 8:45 this morning ran very smoothly. We really appreciate the effort everyone made to drop the children quickly at their allocated gate and move on to allow others to arrive safely.

We were delighted to see the children back in school and they were a credit to you throughout the day. A special mention to our P1s who took their big day in their stride! I am sure they will be tired tonight. Remember, P1s can arrive from 8:45am onwards from Thursday for a soft start, with their school day starting at 9am.

I will need your help and patience to ensure that the collection of the children at the end of the day works as it was intended. Many of you will have observed that it was challenging for those on the pavement closest to the school to socially distance. Taking the following measures, as sent out in yesterday's reminder letter will help to limit the number of adults gathering on the pavement:

- Only one parent or carer should collect their child.
- Parents of older children should arrange to meet their children at a safe distance away from the school at a pre-arranged point. Those children who did this today were able to walk straight out and keep the flow of classes moving. If older children are able to bring younger siblings with them, this also helps to reduce the adults standing along the pavement on Roebank Drive.
- It is helpful if you can time your arrival close to the pick up times below, rather than congregating well in advance of these times. Your children will be dismissed at the times below and we will not let them leave until we know that you are there for them (or that you have agreed to meet them further away from the gate). This means you do not need to be right beside the gate, but can distance yourself from other adults and wait further back.

P1: 2:50pm

P2: 2:55pm

P3-7: 3pm

- Some parents waited on the opposite side of the road where the bus stop is and where the pavement was largely empty. This allowed them to socially distance and stay well back from others and then to cross safely and meet their child once those closest to the gate had departed. This worked well for those parents and is another way to prevent the pavement closest to the school becoming overcrowded with adults.
- Understandably, many people were seeing each other for the first time in a long time today and wanted to catch up. However, it is essential that you depart quickly once you have collected your child.

In addition to the above measures, we will also invite parents of Primary 1 and 2 pupils to follow a one way system into the top section of the playground at the main gate, in order to reduce the

bottleneck at that corner and to make it easier for our youngest children to see who is collecting them. Please follow the directions of school staff to ensure this system is effective.

I appreciate your support and understanding as we embed these new arrangements. We will continue to carefully supervise these transition points in the school day to ensure that the measures above are having the intended effect.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Hutcheson

Head Teacher