



Bickerton Holy Trinity CE Primary School
Long Lane, Bickerton, Malpas, Cheshire. SY14 8AP

Telephone: 01829 720 240

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Head Teacher: Paul Sweetnam BA, MA, NPQH

Thursday, 23 April 2015

Dear Parents,

Parking

The alteration to the way the buses park has been very successful, increasing visibility for cars exiting the driveway and making it much safer. Thank you to Stan Davies and the Parish Council for the alterations to the bus bay which have provided extra parking and facilitated the changes.

The issue of congestion at the end of the day still remains. This is a particular problem between about 3.10 and 3.35, largely due to cars arriving early and then queuing onto Long Lane and others not moving on through as quickly as possible. It does not take many cars to arrive early and queue outside the gates for the traffic to build up dangerously onto Long Lane. The problem ends after about 3.35, when the vast majority of cars have left.

I would now like to try a staggered pick up to help to improve the parking situation at the end of the school day and I am grateful to those parents and governors who have contributed their thoughts to this. The system I would like to trial on a temporary basis is as follows:

- The entry gates will be opened at 3.25 each day;
- Cars may arrive at school at 3.25, **but not before**;
- Between 3.25 – 3.30, parents of children in Class 1 should be the only cars to arrive at school and should enter the driveway;
- Children in Class 1 along with their brothers and sisters in any other classes will be gathered together ready to be collected at 3.30 – 3.35;
- As soon as you have collected your Class 1 child plus siblings and anyone else travelling in your car, please drive away through the exit immediately;
- From 3.35 – 3.40, parents of children in Class 2 should arrive, collecting their children plus siblings and anyone else travelling in your car, then leaving immediately;



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- By 3.40, the majority of children will have been collected, so anyone else should arrive from 3.40 when there should be very little congestion;
- If you want to talk with any member of staff, please do not arrive before 3.40;
- If you are going to arrive before, or a bit late for, your Class 'time slot', please drive to the Village Hall or the layby between school and the Village Hall until your time slot or until after 3.40. I have checked with Nigel Briers at the Village Hall that this is ok. The car park there is large and there should only be a couple of cars needing to take up this offer on any day in the event of your journey time being slightly miscalculated;
- If you have children to collect from Bishop Heber, please collect them first, then come to Bickerton after 3.40. We will look after your children here until you arrive.

I hope that this system will be a success. It sounds quite regimented and I hope that this does not offend anyone, but I think if everyone can be quite self-disciplined and stick to the arrival times rigidly, the congestion should be very considerably reduced and the whole process of collecting your children should become safer for you, your children and other road users. **To make it work, it needs every single family to give it a go.**

At the same time as these changes are put in place, we are also going to change the route staff use to take children across to the field. We will be walking the children past the front of Class 3 to the new bus gate, then crossing towards the junior playground to access the field. The normal pedestrian field gate opposite the main entrance to the school reception will be locked shut to prevent children running across the driveway to get to the field without stopping and looking. Again, this is on a trial basis to see if it improves the safety of our children.

The new parking system trial will start on **Tuesday 28th April at 3.25** and will be evaluated over the following two weeks. Please help to make it work so it can continue. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sweetnam

Head Teacher