20 April 2021

Dear Parent

I wanted to wait until all our pupils were settled back into school before updating you on a number of points.

**CAR PARK**

As you will have noticed our car park has been redesigned. While I appreciate your frustrations regarding the flow of traffic my main concern has always been pupil safety. The new changes including speed ramps, additional footpaths and dedicated crossings should make it safer for our pupils. We do however require everyone’s help and support to make it work as it should.

* All cars will enter at the top gates and follow the one-way system. All spaces must be used before blocking the central aisles. On numerous occasions people have not parked at the side and blocked the flow of traffic which leads to congestion on the Old Mountfield Road. This is a major concern and is something I will be monitoring closely.
* The additional spaces at the bottom of the car park (in front of the sports pitch) should only be used when the main car park is full. This should help ensure that cars do not block the central aisles.
* No cars should be using the Bus or Taxi lane as pupils are regularly crossing this lane and it is essential that they are able to cross safely.
* No cars should enter using the lower gates (unless staff) and NO cars should enter the staff car park nor drive up the bus lane to exit out of the top gate! This is dangerous for our pupils.

**COVID-19**

Unfortunately, Covid continues to circulate widely in our community. I remain extremely appreciative of your ongoing support and an acutely aware that keeping our school Covid free is a team effort. To this end it is essential we all follow the following rules:

* All adults musts wear face coverings when dropping off or collecting pupils.
* All adults must adhere strictly to the 2-metre social distancing rule
* No parents should enter the school building, please make a member of staff aware that you are there and we will come outside to meet with you.
* Any pupil who has Covid symptoms MUST remain off school until they are tested. School must be notified immediately once the outcome has been received.

A **significant number** of local Primary and Post Primary Schools have already had to send pupils home and close ‘bubbles’ due to Covid. This requires a return to online learning for a period of 10 days which is the last thing any of us desire. By following these procedures, you will help us keep Gibson as safe as possible for our pupils.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Our school holidays were circulated in August however lots have changed since then! Rather than changing our holiday list further we will be running with the closures for Term 3 as planned. For your information these are:

* Monday 3 May
* Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

We will be circulating our holidays for the next school year (i.e. September 2021 – June 2022) in the comings days.

**SPORTS DAYS**

We will not be holding our usual Sports Days which have always been extremely well attended by parents, this year we will have our Sports Day behind closed doors. This is to ensure our pupils safety and the integrity of our class bubbles. It’s essential our pupils have things to look forward to and all pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of races. It is our intention that they will have greater opportunities this year as we are not as constrained with time.

We know that there is a huge temptation to stay and watch if you see pupils on the sports pitch but we would ask that you are mindful of the car parking situation and that we are not allowed large numbers of adults congregating. We will be recording the races and sending them out to parents through our various media streams including Seesaw and Showbie which will allow you to see them perform.

**REPORTS & END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS**

Pupil reports will be circulated as normal towards the end of June. Along with the report you will receive information regarding your child’s next teacher and arrangements for next year. Your child may not be permitted to visit their new class due to Covid protocols although we will still arrange for them to meet their new teacher and get to know them.

Although it looks unlikely that we will be able to have our end of year school trips or fun nights we will be planning fun activities for the pupils to take part in within school. These activities will give the pupils an opportunity to end the year in a fun way as always.

I am extremely impressed how our pupils have adapted to the full time return to school. They are an absolute credit to us all. As always, I am available at all times should you have any concerns or comments.

Yours sincerely



K Sterritt (Mr)

Principal