



STEETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Market Street, Steeton, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD206NN.

Telephone/Fax: 01535 653315

Email: office@steeton.bradford.sch.uk

Website: www.steeton.bradford.sch.uk

**Executive Head teacher: Mr John Cooper
Head of School; Mr K. Wheeler
Friday 16th July 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers

As you can probably imagine we are deeply into planning for the new school year in September.

Hopefully, with Covid restrictions being lifted we are looking forward to some normality in how school operates, as from September.

There are a few areas of control however, albeit with a few tweaks, that we will be maintaining.

We have reflected on the measures we put into place over the last 15 months and believe one or two actually make the school a safer environment.

Drop Off and Pick Up

We are keeping the four gate system with different phases being dropped off/collected from different gates.

EYFS Top Gate outside EYFS Building

Yr1/2 Bottom Gate by the Car Park into the MUGA.

Yr3/4 Park Gate

Yr 5/6 Main Gate

In a morning school at **drop off time**, gates will be open from 8:30am and the playground will be supervised by school staff. You are welcome to bring your child into the playground especially if you need to speak to a member of staff but rest assured as I said earlier school staff will be on duty so you can leave your child in confidence. School gates will be closed at 8:45am and the Playground will need vacating of parents.

At **Pick Up time** the gates will be open from 3:00pm. We are not opening up the playground to parents in the afternoon. Please queue up as of the present arrangements at your child's Year group gate and the children will be released to you by staff.

There a couple of safeguarding reasons for this.

1. Unlike in a morning when children are naturally dropped off at staggered times, the afternoon pick up sees all parents arriving at the same time. Pre Covid this led to a congested playground and increasingly difficult for staff to see which parents were waiting and ensure secure handover.
2. The unofficial 'rolling carpark' outside the front gate was a huge safeguarding and road safety issue. We will not release children to parents who pull up in front of the gate. We want all parents who drive to school to park up and collect children from the gate.

In order to make things easier for parents who have a number of children to pick up (siblings/cousins) we will arrange for family groups to be taken to a certain gate so you only have to collect them from one gate. I will send a ping out next week where you can tell me your family group and we will let you know which gate to collect them from. I appreciate that parents collecting children from 3 or 4 gates did find this difficult over the last year.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes have been reduced by 20mins to 55mins. However this has been spread over 1 and ½ hours, so each starts and finishes lunch at different times. There is a slight crossover with yr3/4 and yr5/6, but each phase will have more space in the playground for quality play. We are sure this will also cut down on accidents, bumps and trips due to the less crowded playground.

Looking forward in anticipation of your cooperation to make this all work smoothly in September.

Kind regards

Kevin Wheeler

Head of School

Mr K. Wheeler

