



St. Nicholas' CE (VA) Primary School

Idmiston Road • Porton • Salisbury • SP4 0LB

Phone 01980 610401

email: office@stnicholas.wilts.sch.uk

website: www.stnicholas.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sandra L Smith BA (Hons)

1st October 2021

Dear parents

A very warm welcome back to St Nicholas School! Apologies it has taken me all month to be able to write to you all – a lot has been going on coupled with having significant staff shortage for the first few weeks! However, all is well and we are so full of energy and enthusiasm and also extremely excited and joyful to have all children back with us together in the hall and playground. Can I also say how very lovely it is to see so many of you on the playground at the start and the end of the school day? We have all missed you so much and school has felt very corporate and empty without you all, so a very warm welcome back!

Drop Off Zone (8.40am – 8.50am only)

I and other senior staff have been watching very carefully the drop offs in the morning and have decided to make the following changes for the safety of the pedestrians:

- The Drop Off zone will start at the very end of the zigzag lines (where Ms Glover normally stands) and end before the word SCHOOL in front of the school gate. This is the area in which children can alight from the vehicle. Please note staff will no longer open and close doors so please only use this system when your children are able to alight independently from your vehicle.
- You may wait for the Drop Off Zone to free up on the double yellow lines only, please keep your hazard lights on to alert other parents that you are waiting to use the Drop Off Zone.
- By making this change the dropped kerbs in front of the school will remain clear for parents to be able to cross themselves and their children without traffic moving as they cross.
- Please ensure that when you are parking or waiting on the side of the road or returning to the highway from a parked or waiting position you do indicate so that other road users are aware of your intentions.

Parking and walking to school:

- There is parking availability along Idmiston Road before the school and after the school on the school perimeter and beyond.
- There is sometimes parking at the Memorial Hall but only when it is not in use.
- There is parking at the Barleyfield Housing Development along Idmiston Road opposite Horefield – turn right after the school and there is a small car park with spaces that you are able to use. You can access the back gate into school from that side of the road if you wish to. Please be careful the path is sometimes slippery with moss and leaves.
- There is parking all along Idmiston Road – please be mindful of the local residents and do not block their driveways or park on the pavements.

One Way System:

- We have for many years now operated a voluntary one way system to reduce the amount of 2 way traffic along Idmiston Road. Please enter Idmiston Road from Porton village and exit Idmiston Road via Idmiston Village.
- Please adhere closely to the speed limits when driving in the locality (20mph is a safe speed to be using when using Idmiston Road and Idmiston Village, regardless of the time of day).
- Please do not make 3 point turns on Idmiston Road.
- Please do not turn in the entrance of the school at any time

Children walking by themselves to and from school

- I am delighted to see so many children walking to school, it has so many benefits for health and general well-being. However I am concerned that many children are crossing the roads without looking, particularly when they come out of the field from the footpath. I have had several parents mention this to me and seen it for myself. This is very dangerous so would all parents whose children are walking to school ensure they are fully aware of the correct ways in which to cross a busy road.
- I am also aware that many children are stood waiting at the gate in the morning and are there as early as 8.15am. Can I please remind parents that staff are not on duty until 8.40am and therefore children arriving at the school gate before this time are unsupervised.



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Schools and traffic are a very difficult combination but if we can all be mindful of each other, particularly the children's safety, and the locality that we drive in and out of, I am certain we can continue with these changes. I am aware of how valued a Drop Off Zone is by parents but I am also extremely conscious of the dangers moving traffic presents. I have made these changes so that we are able to continue with the Drop Off Zone, but if I consider the risks too great I will cancel the Drop Off Zone and ask that all parents park and walk their children to school.

Can we also remind parents using the Willow Club that they also need to avoid parking on the yellow road markings and must not turn around in the school gateway. There is still significant movement of both pedestrians and vehicles in and out of school at these times and the safety of all is paramount. In addition children should be dropped to the Willow Club door by an adult at breakfast time, there are no staff on duty outside at this time to ensure they are safely inside and class registers are not collected until 9.30am each morning

End of the School Day

Children are aware of the playtime rules in place when on the school field and using the play equipment and these are in place for their own safety. The same rules apply at the end of the school day when the children leave our care, areas where the children are not allowed to play are because there are hazardous and using the play equipment incorrectly could cause injury. We appreciate that we all allow our children more freedom when we supervise them at a play park but it is confusing to have two sets of rules in school and we would ask that you are mindful of this at the end of the day when you are supervising your child/children.

We do understand that it is so nice to be able to meet and chat with other parents at the end of the day but we would ask that families have left the field by 3.30pm to enable the Willow Club to use this area. Thank you.

Parent Consultations – 12th and 14th October

We have decided to hold consultations by Zoom again. Times and booking facilities will be sent to you shortly.

School Website

Please do take the time to look through our school website, it is full of photos of your children and commentaries on the events taking place at school. Staff spend a great deal of time ensuring their pages are kept up to date and they truly are a wonderful representation of this lovely school. It is the main information hub of the school so please do look through all of the sections.

School Lunches

After the October half term, we will have a new catering provider and we are looking forward to the changes that are intended. This is a joint collaboration with two other local schools. School meals will be able to be ordered from the parent app and more information will follow regarding this. Key Stage 2 children will also be able to access hot meals and their portion sizes are intended to be larger (hooray!).

PE Uniform

Thank you so much to you all for helping us with the changes to the PE uniform. I cannot believe how many children are wearing the new PE uniform already. That is incredibly conscientious of you all and we are all most grateful. We will be arranging a date for a uniform swap shortly and so if you have any good quality PE kit or school jumpers you would like to donate please do drop them in the foyer and we will let parents know shortly when the exchange will take place.

In addition please could you ensure that your child's clothes and water bottles are clearly named, Ms Glover has had an influx of parents looking for lost items in the last couple of weeks. We encourage children to be responsible for their own clothes and pop them on their peg or in the class jumper box but if you notice your child has accidentally brought home someone else's jumper then please let them know so it can be swapped back at school the next day.

Daffodil Welcome

This week the children have enjoyed planting bulbs on the grass verge just inside the school gate and it has turned out to be the perfect week to do so with plenty of sun and rain! We are looking forward to a blanket of yellow daffodils in the spring.



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Harvest Service

On Thursday 7th October we will be holding our Harvest Festival and we are delighted to be able to return to St Nicholas Church to hold this service, unfortunately we are unable to open this invitation to parents this year. We will be walking to church so please send your child to school with a waterproof coat to ensure they stay warm and dry. We will be collecting food items for the Trussell Trust and would ask that each family make a donation, an additional letter will also be sent home outlining the details.

Operation Shoebox

As a school we try to remember how fortunate we are and help others when we can in some small way, as well as our Harvest collection we also participate in the Operation Shoebox appeal. This is a fabulous activity for the whole family to get involved in and the boxes we collect mean so much to the children and adults who received them. We will have a visit from the Operation Shoe Box team on the 18th October when they will explain to the children how they can help and what a difference their gifts make to these individuals. As soon as we receive this year's information we will send this home so you can start to collect items to fill your shoebox.

TD days

Just a remind that the children's last day at school this term is Tuesday 19th October the following day is a TD Day (Wednesday 20th October) followed by the half term holiday with everyone returning back to school for term 2 on Monday 1st November. All TD days and school holiday dates can be found on the website.

Yours sincerely

S L Smith

Mrs S L Smith
Headteacher



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