



*St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Oxton, Prenton,
Birkenhead, Wirral CH43 5UT*

24/4/17

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to write to you with a couple of updates...

Building Work

The bulk of the planned building work is now complete. This work had a specific purpose of making our school site more secure.

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused by having the Woodchurch Road entrance closed last week and thank you all for your patience and understanding. The Woodchurch Road entrance is back in use, but as I explained in previous newsletters, will be for pedestrians only – the carpark will be for staff only.

The pedestrian gate will be open during 'peak' hours – i.e. from approx. 8.30am – 9.15am and from 3.15pm – 3.50pm. Outside of these hours, the gate is locked and has a video intercom fitted. If you need access to the school during the day, please press the intercom and a member of the office staff will let you in.

You will notice that a designated walkway has been included in the carpark – this is for you and your child's safety and I urge you to use these walkways. Once through the gate, walk straight ahead (the parking spaces there are no longer in use), use the zebra crossing to cross, and then use the yellow hatched markings to the lower gate. This gate is locked via a magnetic lock, but is unlocked by a push button on each side of the gate, located at a height to prevent children reaching.

You will see that a fence has been placed across the infant playground – this is to prevent visitors walking across and intermingling with children at lunch/break times.

On the inside of the building, we have had fobs fitted to the doors leading through to the dining hall and a new partition wall with a fob door erected at the top of the stairs. This work was necessary so that visitors are 'contained' in the office area and can only get access to the school when accompanied by a member of staff.

All of this work is part of my ongoing vision to improve the security as well as the look and appearance of the school building.

As with any changes, the next few weeks will see us 'ironing out' any of the issues. One thing in particular I am aware of will be the potential congestion at home time. For Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5N parents who meet the children on the KS1 playground, we will have to consider where you wait and where the children are brought to. There will be a 'knock on' effect, as there is only one gate in the fence, and will potentially have 'traffic' coming through both ways.



I ask you to bear with me on this one – as I will be outside to observe what happens and invite feedback from parents to then design and implement the best system. Please may I ask you to be considerate to others coming through the opposite way. Other possible issues I am considering is out of hours access for parents who use JoJoes breakfast/after school club. Again, I ask for your understanding as we design the best solutions.

I will write to you again with any relevant updates as and when they occur. I am also hoping in the very near future to tell you about other exciting developments, such as the playground redesign.

Dates

I hope you received the letters last week informing and reminding you of some school closure dates, as a result of local and general elections, but just as a reminder:

Thursday 4th May School is closed due to local elections (this has been set as one of the five staff INSET days)

Thursday 8th June School is closed due to the general election.

I am hoping to get a calendar out to you in the near future with some other dates, as this term is usually packed with events, some of which you may wish to attend, such as sports day etc.

Autism Month

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we celebrate all of the things that make each one of our children a unique and wonderful individual.

The month of April is Autism Awareness month and so we invite the children to mark this by wearing something blue on Friday 28th April. This could be a t-shirt, jumper, trousers, socks or simply a headband or similar. The children will learn about autism, and develop their understanding of people living with autism.

If any children wished to bring in a donation (suggestion £1), we will pass this on to Autism Speaks, the charity behind Autism Awareness Month and 'Light it up Blue'.

Kind regards

Mr Turner