

21 January 2022

Dear Parents

Welcome back. The start of 2022 has already proved to be a busy time at Holy Trinity. Staff and pupils came back after the Christmas break rested and in good health but sadly since then a number of our year groups have been hit by Covid as have a large number of staff. Thankfully on the whole those testing positive haven't been too poorly and the great school community spirit has meant we have been able to continue to provide the education and care our pupils deserve, despite staff shortages. We are looking forward to having everyone back in school safe and well soon.

Parents' Evenings are coming up on Tuesday 8th February and Thursday 10th February, hopefully you have already booked your appointment/s. Due to the uncertain Covid situation, we have once again decided to conduct these on Zoom but the downside means you are not able to come in and see your child's learning. For this reason we have arranged the following dates when you can come in and look at your child's books in a socially distanced safe way. This will not be an opportunity for a parent consultation, instead it is a chance for your children to show you their work and for you to celebrate their achievements with them. On the day of the book look, you will collect your child in the usual way after school. They will then bring you into school and take you to their books where you can sit and look together. Where you have two children on the same day you can move from one space to the other. The book look is for half an hour from the end of the school day. Each year group will have their books spread out over three areas to help with social distancing. We ask that parents do keep masks on inside. Please make a note of the dates/s in your diary:

Reception	Wednesday 2 nd March
Year 1	Friday 4 th March
Year 2	Wednesday 23 rd February
Year 3	Thursday 3 rd March
Year 4	Wednesday 2 nd March
Year 5	Thursday 24 th February
Year 6	Wednesday 23 rd February

Christmas

Christmas seems a long way off but we wanted to let you know that the Reindeer Run the children took part in at the end of term, raised £698 for the Woking & Sam Beare Hospice. This money will make a big difference to this local charity. Thank you for your support.

Mabel and I wanted to say a huge well done to everyone who took part in her Christmas Reading Challenge. Nearly a quarter of the school got involved and Mabel and I loved seeing your photos and reading your jokes. Mabel still needs to get round the school to finish giving out stickers to all those who took part. She will be doing story times with a few lucky participants later this term.

Food in school

Please can we remind you that snacks at breaktime should only be fruit or vegetables. We ask that you do not send in packaged, processed fruit products.

Packed lunches – we have noticed an increase in sweets in lunch boxes since the start of term. As a Healthy School we ask that there shouldn't be any sweets (this includes chocolate) in lunchboxes. Chocolate covered biscuits are fine but not chocolate bars. Also please remember that due to severe nut allergies we are a nut free school.

Drop Off Zone and Parking

I am hoping the subheading has not put you off reading and you have at least read to this point with an open mind! I know the Drop off Zone and parking outside school comes up time and time again on newsletters but sadly time and time again we have near misses outside school due to careless driving. We also have our neighbours telling us about inconsiderate and dangerous parking. It does make me think what needs to happen on Benner Lane to make everyone stop and think before they manoeuvre their car? It doesn't bear thinking about!

I know some of the traffic on Benner Lane will not be associated with Holy Trinity at all, but please ponder on the following to see if you can be part of the solution and please share with anyone else who brings your child to school by car:

For clarity please note that the Drop off Zone is not the property of and therefore not under the jurisdiction of the school – it belongs to Surrey County Council. Residents in Benner Lane are legally allowed to park in the Drop off Zone. We do have neighbours who use the layby to park, but they always try to park at one end so we can continue to use it as a Drop off Zone.

For you as parents the Drop off Zone means exactly that, it is for dropping off. Drivers should not be exiting their car to let their child out. If your child cannot exit the car on his/her own, you should not be using the Drop off Zone. When people clog up the Drop off Zone it causes incidents further down the road.

Parking with your engine still running - we have noticed on a number of occasions people parking up on Benner Lane and then sitting in their car or even leaving their car with their engine running. This means pupils and adults standing on the pavements are breathing in the fumes. This is detrimental to lungs and overall health. Please turn your engines off when you park.

So with all this in mind how can we improve things? What will help you as parents to drop your children off safely and quickly? We have called the local police in to stand at the side of the road to deter poor driving but that is just a short term fix and the police does not have such resources. Do we need to pursue asking Surrey Highways to put in additional traffic measures along Benner Lane? Of course part of the solution is to walk when you can, the fewer cars on Benner Lane the better for everyone. You can also park further away and walk in, meaning fewer cars will be in the vicinity. We could also introduce a service run by volunteers to help children exit cars and make their way into school, this would keep the Drop off Zone moving.

If you would be interested in finding out about how we could make 'drop offs' safer in the morning and would like to be part of the solution please let the office know. I would love to work with a group of parents on finding a solution that will provide a long term, positive impact.

Mrs Ambrose

Head of School