

9th October 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for being so supportive of the changes we have put in place to keep the school community safe during the pandemic. As I am sure you will understand, as we continually review the provision in place we will need to make some changes.

The school day

Currently Saplings, Maples and Willows end their school day at 2.50pm and Rowans, Cedars, Oaks and Elders end their day at 3.05pm. Originally we thought we would be able to make up some time during the day but with extra handwashing and one way systems this has not been possible so, from Monday 2nd November (the first day back after half-term) pick up times will change as follows:

Saplings, Maples and Willows – **3.05pm**

Rowans, Cedars, Oaks and Elders – **3.20pm**

I appreciate this means that parents of siblings in different key stages will need to continue to wait between dropping off their children but the staggered times are in place to reduce risk.

Extra layers

We will continue to ensure good ventilation by keeping windows open. Although the heating is on in school it may still feel chilly in the classrooms as the season changes. Please make sure your child wears an extra layer. Long sleeve thermal vests are ideal and are reasonably priced in most supermarkets. Some children are adding an extra layer by wearing the Great Waldingfield fleece that can be bought from My Clothing (the link is on our school website). A navy gilet or bodywarmer may also be a good idea. Whatever extra layer you decide on please keep to our school colours. It is best to avoid children wearing their coat inside as these are often bulky and rather restrictive.

Early Birds and T Birds

We will be writing to those working parents who emailed us earlier on in the year requesting regular wrap around care for their child/children.



Harvest Festival

After a great deal of consideration, we have decided that under the circumstances our Harvest Festival service will be held in school via 'teams' rather than at the church as originally planned. The children are becoming quite familiar with acts of worship taking place virtually! As is a tradition here at Great Waldingfield we will be accepting Harvest donations next week. Coffee, tea, drinking chocolate and other hot drinks or chocolate and fancy biscuits for the elderly in the village. Tins and non-perishable food items for Storehouse in Sudbury. This is a chance for the children to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Reduce, reuse and recycle

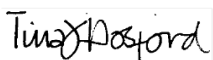
After half term we will be asking children who bring a packed lunch in from home to take their rubbish home with them as we are finding it increasingly difficult to dispose of all empty cartons, plastic bottles and bags along with the extra paper towels we are using. Thank you for your understanding.

Healthy lunches and drink bottles

As you know most classes are eating their lunch in their classroom. Class teachers are concerned by the amount of chocolate and sweets that children are bringing in their lunchboxes and generally the amount of food. Many of the children are not eating everything they bring in. All classes have at least 25 minutes to eat their lunch (the younger children have longer) so are not leaving it just to rush out to play; they simply can't eat the volume. A carton or bottle of juice may be included in your child's lunch box. However, the drink bottle that sits on their table for drinking during the day must be water only. This is for both practical and health reasons. Sugary juice rots teeth, contributes to obesity and makes a horrible sticky mess when it spills on learning and carpets. Some parents put fresh fruit in their child's drink bottle to give the water flavour and this is quite acceptable.

Thank you for your continuing support during these uncertain times and please be assured we are doing our very best to keep the school community safe.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T J Hosford
Headteacher

