Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Changes to security protocols at school

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important update regarding our school's security protocols, effective immediately. To ensure the continued safety and well-being of all our pupils and staff, we will now keep the main school gates locked during the school day, between drop-off and pick-up times. This decision has been made following a review of our site security.

What this means for you: During the school day, from approximately 09.00 - 14:50, the main vehicle and pedestrian gates will be padlocked.

As we currently do, the bottom playground gate is locked at 08.30, once the KS2 children are inside. The top playground gate is locked at 09.00, once the Reception staggered drop-off has finished.

Accessing the school: If you need to visit the school during the day (e.g., for an appointment, to drop off a forgotten item, or to pick up a child early), please call the school office on 01442 871231 to be let in. As we have previously communicated, the school car park is not accessible for parents between the hours of 0745 and 1630 for the safety of the children on site.

Late arrivals/early dismissals: Please follow the existing procedure for late drop-offs and early pick-ups via the main office.

We understand that security changes can sometimes feel inconvenient, but we trust you appreciate that the safety of our pupils is our highest priority. Your cooperation in adhering to this new procedure is essential and greatly appreciated. Please encourage your children to bring everything that they need for the school day with them, when you drop them off in the morning.

As you will be aware from the newsletter, we are currently fundraising to support the installation of electric gates. We successfully secured a grant in 2023 to replace the school's perimeter fencing; however, this grant did not cover the pedestrian and vehicle gates or the blue fencing at the front of the school. The Department for Education (DfE) allocates capital funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. Bridgewater receives just under £9,000 per year in capital funding, which does not go far for a site of our size! We have to find the funds to improve the building through our core school funding, fundraising or from income from lettings etc.

We are delighted that two Bridgewater dads, George Rainsford and Chris Foggin, are running the London Marathon this year, to help raise funds for installing electric gates. Please consider sponsoring them by following this link to their Just Giving page.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the school office. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in keeping our school a safe place for everyone.

Kind regards,

Andrea Bettridge
Headteacher