



SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL  
10 SCIENNES ROAD  
EDINBURGH EH9 1LG  
Telephone: 0131 667 1243  
Email: [admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk)  
website: [www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk](http://www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk)  
ANDREW M HUNTER, Headteacher

RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

12 August 2021

Dear Families

### **Returning to Sciennes Primary in August 2021**

I hope you and your children have been able to take advantage of the sunshine and the opportunities to reconnect with family and friends over the summer holiday. The 2021-2022 school session will start on Monday 16 August for **staff** and we will be preparing to welcome **all our children back on Wednesday 18 August 2021.**

You will be aware that the First Minister announced a further easing of restrictions on 9 August. We want to comply with the recommendation to proceed cautiously to make sure that everyone feels safe and secure. In line with recent updated guidance, schools will therefore retain **most** of the measures to reduce the potential transmission of COVID 19 that were in place last session. There are key changes to **some** measures and these are to be introduced slowly, mostly within the next four to six weeks.

#### **GROUPINGS or 'BUBBLES'**

**There is a change to the advice on Groupings or 'Bubbles'**. Previously, class bubbles were in place indoors and year group bubbles outdoors. The Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council have advised that we can dispense with these from August. However, the advice is also to proceed cautiously and to avoid large indoor gatherings such as Assemblies for the time being.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Normal access to the building remains restricted.** Parents and carers should therefore continue to contact school by email via [admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) or by telephone on 0131 667 1243. Currently, appointments will be conducted by telephone or online but we will advise you of any changes to this. Pupils can be collected from the main door if they have an appointment out of school within the school day.

#### **FACE COVERING**

Adults (and pupils) may choose to wear face coverings if they wish. We ask that any parent entering school for an agreed appointment wears a face covering.

#### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Two metre physical distancing between adults and between adults and children from different families is still encouraged. Parents should maintain distancing when dropping children off **outside the school gates** (except for P1) and avoid congregating.

## STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES

Please note carefully the **staggered start and finish** times for your child's return to school at Sciennes. **P1 times are different to normal times for the first week only. P1 families have received information about the start date for their child.**

### MONDAY to THURSDAY Adjustments to normal 8.50am-2.50pm/3.20pm hours ONLY P1 Parents should enter the playground at MORNING DROP OFF

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time	ENTRANCE/EXIT *N.B. PUPILS SHOULD ONLY USE THE ENTRANCE/EXIT STIPULATED BELOW
<b>* P1 Wed 18 Thurs 19 Fri 20 ONLY</b>	<b>9.05am</b>	<b>12.05pm</b>	WEST DOOR (Sick Kids Hospital side) Parents wait in playground in West zone
<b>* P1 FROM Mon 23 AUGUST</b>	8.50am	2.50pm	WEST DOOR (Sick Kids Hospital side) Parents wait in playground in West zone
<b>FROM 18 AUG ON</b>			
P2	8.50am	2.50pm	EAST DOOR (Main Entrance)
P3	<b>8.45am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b>	WEST DOOR
P4	<b>8.45am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b>	Temp Huts and EAST DOOR
P5	8.55am	3.25pm	WEST DOOR
P6	8.55am	3.25pm	EAST DOOR
P7	8.55am	3.25pm	EAST DOOR
<b>* NEW PUPILS P2-P7 pupils starting at Sciennes for the first time (on Wed 18 Aug only)</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	As above	<i>EAST DOOR ENTRANCE ON ARRIVAL Parents may accompany pupils to the Gym Hall where they will then be met by members of staff and escorted to classrooms. We ask that you wear a mask and observe 2m distancing indoors</i>

### FRIDAY – adjustments to normal 8.50am to 12.05pm hours

#### ONLY P1 Parents should enter the playground at MORNING DROP OFF

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time	ENTRANCE/EXIT *N.B. PUPILS SHOULD ONLY USE THE ENTRANCE/EXIT STIPULATED BELOW
<b>* P1 Fri 20 AUGUST ONLY</b>	<b>9.05am</b>	12.05pm	WEST DOOR (Sick Kids Hospital side) Parents wait in playground in West zone
<b>* P1 FROM Fri 27 AUGUST</b>	8.50am	12.05pm	WEST DOOR Parents wait in playground in West zone
P2	8.50am	12.05pm	EAST DOOR (Main Entrance)
P3	8.45am	12.00pm	WEST DOOR
P4	8.45am	12.00pm	EAST DOOR
P5	8.55am	12.10pm	WEST DOOR
P6	8.55am	12.10pm	EAST DOOR
P7	8.55am	12.10pm	EAST DOOR

## MORNING DROP OFF

Wherever possible we would appreciate if children arrive at school just before their designated entry time and parents are advised to vacate the area afterwards to avoid congregating. Please help us by being punctual and keeping to allotted times.

Staff will be at the school gates **from 8.40am** to ensure pupils remain within the playground once dropped off. There is no adult supervision before 8.40am.

**Please note that P2-P7 will be required to line up in the playground on the first day of school only - Wednesday 18 August.** Staff will show pupils to their lines. P1 pupils will line up until the September break.

**P1 parents** may enter the West playground **from 9.05am** to a designated P1 Parent Wait Area. From 23 August onwards, **P1 pupils will continue to line up from 8.50am** and all other pupils will be able to come into school directly without lining up, **USING THEIR CORRECT ENTRANCE AT THEIR PARTICULAR ENTRY TIME.**

### END OF THE DAY PICK UP

P6 and P7 pupils can be collected from **outside the school gates**. See below for Wait Zones in the playground for parents collecting P1-P5 pupils at staggered times. Please **only enter the playground just before your designated pick up time**. If you have siblings who need collected at different times, please leave the playground and return at the designated time. Thank you. We appreciate that these staggered times mean that some families will be faced with a longer wait time for siblings. We hope to reduce staggered times within the first six weeks of term starting.

### **P1-P5 parents can enter the playground to COLLECT PUPILS at the end of the day**

Year Group	M-Th Finish	Friday Finish	EXIT PROCEDURES
* <b>P1 18,19, 20 AUGUST ONLY</b>	<b>12.05pm</b>	12.05pm	<b>WEST DOOR</b> (Sick Kids Hospital side) Parents wait in playground in designated <b>West</b> zone
* <b>P1 FROM Mon 23 AUGUST</b>	2.50pm	12.05pm	<b>WEST DOOR</b> Parents wait in playground in designated <b>West</b> zone
P2	2.50pm	12.05pm	<b>EAST DOOR</b> (Main Entrance) Parents wait in playground in designated <b>East</b> zone
P3	3.15pm	12.00pm	<b>WEST DOOR</b> Parents wait in playground in designated <b>West</b> zone
P4	3.15pm	12.00pm	<b>EAST DOOR</b> Parents wait in playground in designated <b>East</b> zone
P5	3.25pm	12.10pm	<b>WEST DOOR</b> Parents wait in playground in designated <b>West</b> zone
P6	3.25pm	12.10pm	<b>EAST DOOR</b> Pupils can be collected from <b>outside school gates</b>
P7	3.25pm	12.10pm	<b>EAST DOOR</b> Pupils can be collected from <b>outside school gates</b>

**Medication** - A table will be set up in the East playground on Wed 18 from 9.05am to 9.30am for parents who need to drop off any labelled **medication** and complete relevant forms.

<https://sciennesprimaryschool.com/school-handbook/medication/>

**Minimising Contact** – restrictions on staff only working with two classes each day have been lifted. This means that our Specialist staff can now deliver Science and P.E. to several classes each day but will maintain at least 1m distance from pupils. Music tuition in Violin and Viola can also later be increased beyond only P6 and P7 though we await advice on woodwind tuition. Singing can resume in classrooms and we are delighted about this. Initially, there will be no large gatherings of pupils (e.g. year group meetings or Assemblies) until further notice. It would be helpful if you could re-enforce that we will be encouraging single file and to keep left when moving around the building.

## **BUILDING WORKS**

We are delighted with the plans for four new classrooms at the rear of the school. Meanwhile, as you are aware, two temporary, high quality classrooms have been situated in the front playground. There is reduced space, but we are relieved that we did not have to decant classes to another school.

## **SCHOOL STREETS ROAD CLOSURE**

Sciennes has a long-established history of promoting Active Travel and we encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If parents need to drive, please ensure you park at some distance from surrounding roads. Under the [School Streets Scheme](#) in Edinburgh, Sciennes Road has for many years been closed to traffic each morning and again at the end of the day though there are some exceptions (e.g. blue badge holders). Last session, a section of Sciennes Road was closed off as part of COVID measures to create Space for People. We hope this is set to continue, but please be aware that construction work at the former Sick Children's Hospital means safety en route to school is paramount. Our Parent Council is working hard to ensure children can safely use the road as a play area,

**Hygiene arrangements** –We will continue to encourage regular handwashing when children are in school and hand sanitisers will be widely available throughout the building. Enhanced cleaning will continue daily.

**Health and Wellbeing – The City of Edinburgh Council will be sending a letter to you with updated information on COVID-19.** If your child is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms, they **MUST NOT** attend school and current NHS guidelines should be followed.

**Uniform** – We encourage all our pupils to wear school uniform. Please contact the school office for advice on assistance with funding. <https://sciennes.imagescotland.com>

**Outdoor Wear** – pupils should come dressed to be outdoors in all-weather **every day** with a waterproof, hooded jacket. Spare training shoes should be brought for outdoor activities each day.

**Physical Education** – pupils will be notified of P.E. times and on those days should come already dressed for PE as far as possible. P.E. kits should be taken home to be washed. P.E. will be delivered outside wherever possible, but we are pleased that we can now use the Hall for P.E.

**Water Bottle** – initially, **water fountains will not be in use** so pupils must bring a bottle with fresh water and take it home each day.

**Personal Belongings** – Cloakrooms will now **be in use**. Stationery can be provided and if pupils wish to bring their own, should preferably be labelled in a pencil case.

**Morning Break** – pupils should bring a healthy snack each day. Senior Leaders, Playground Supervisors and Pupil Support Assistants are looking forward to spending time with the children in the playground.

**Lunch Arrangements** – We can now resume using both our Dining Halls in year groups over staggered lunch breaks. **School lunches must be pre-booked online using ParentPay by midnight Wednesdays, one week ahead.** Breaktimes in the playground will also be staggered and we aim to escort P7 pupils to the Meadows at lunchtime whenever possible or will use the Nature Strip and road. We will be in contact to ask if you might be willing to volunteer to help supervise pupils at morning and lunch breaks.

**After School Clubs and Breakfast Club** – SASCS will be operational from Wednesday 16 August and will be in contact about arrangements (including entry and exit) with all pupils who have existing places.

We recognise that some of our children may be feeling uncertain about the return to school after a long holiday. I want to reassure you that we will welcome and support everyone to make the transition back to school a positive experience.

I am grateful for your continued support and patience and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back.

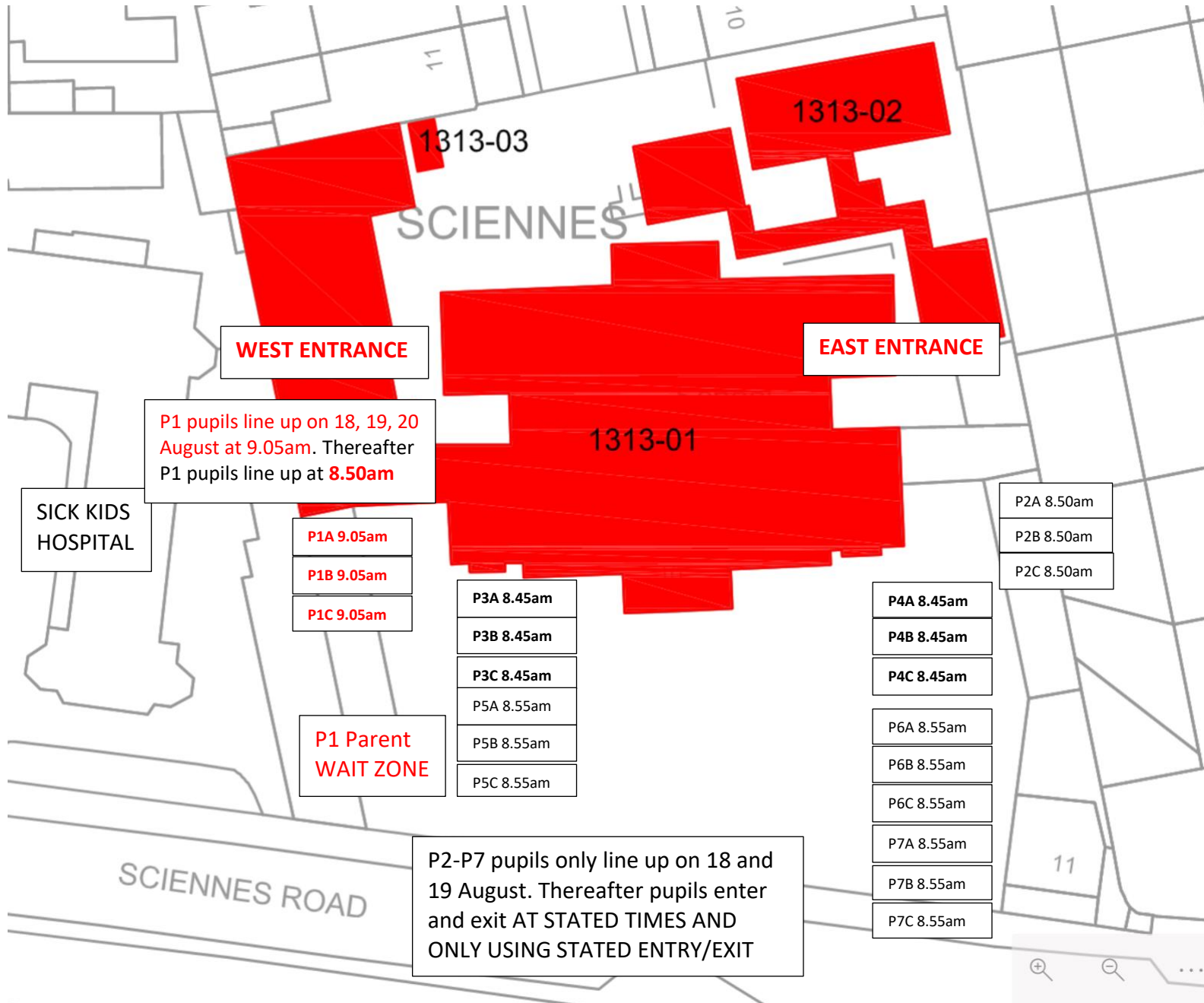
Please look at the [website](#) on Monday as I will record a little video message for the children. I look forward to seeing the children next week. In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Andrew

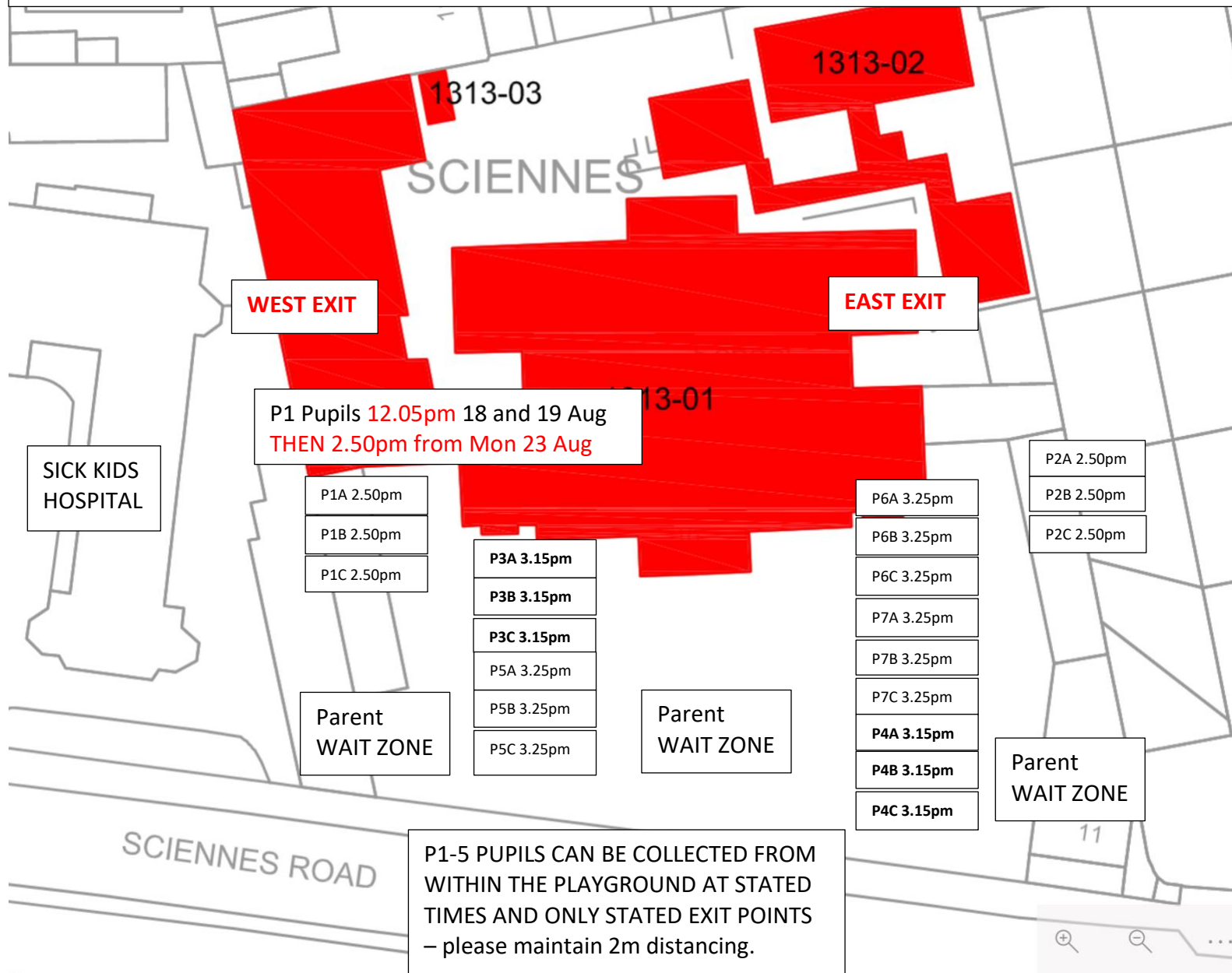
Andrew M Hunter | Head Teacher | Sciennes Primary School | 10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1LG  
Tel 0131 667 1243 | Email [andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) |  
Website [www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk](http://www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk) | Twitter @SciennesPS BELIEVE • ACHIEVE



**MON-THURS DROP OFF AND LINES FOR WEDNESDAY 18 and THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2021.** PLEASE NOTE ONLY P1 and P2 PARENTS/CARERS SHOULD ENTER THE PLAYGROUND for **MORNING DROP OFF**. P2 PARENTS SHOULD THEN IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE PLAYGROUND. Thank you



**MON TO THURS STAGGERED PICK UP PROCEDURES.** P1-P5 PARENTS/CARERS MAY ENTER THE PLAYGROUND for **COLLECTION** and then should vacate the playground immediately. P6 and P7 pupils can be collected outside the school gates. Thank you



**FRIDAY STAGGERED PICK UP PROCEDURES.** P1-P5 PARENTS/CARERS MAY ENTER THE PLAYGROUND for **COLLECTION** and then should vacate the playground immediately. P6 and P7 pupils can be collected outside the school gates. Thank you.

