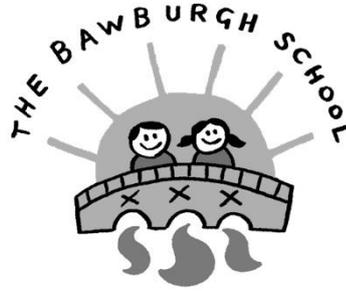


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Chair of Governors: Mr S. Kelly

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are all aware, the school day starts at 9am for children in KS2. Initial communication regarding start times and procedures for dropping off children in the mornings was sent out this time last year in preparation for September 2020. Communication was also sent out reminding you of our before school offer of childcare, either breakfast club from 7.30am or the early drop off at 8.45am.

Unfortunately, over the course of the academic year we have noticed a growing number of children left unsupervised on the playground. Due to the change in time to the school day, we do not have the staff available to supervise the playground from 8.45-9am, nor do we have the budget to employ someone for 15 mins.

The school has received a number of complaints from concerned parents regarding the lack of supervision of a large group of children, worried that the children may hurt themselves before school, especially as the children were playing football and bulldog. After sending many communications to you via Parentmail, Class Dojo and on the Weekly Bulletin and with no real improvement of children being supervised we made the difficult decision to lock the school gates.

Whilst I can totally understand your frustration that you feel like you are being 'locked out of school' and that the Year 6s need more independence and trust to be left unsupervised but I must remind you that school for Hummingbirds does not commence until 9am and unless you are dropping another child for the earlier start you do not need to be at school until 8.55am. At this time there should be ample parking spaces and therefore there isn't the need to get to school early to secure a spot.

Due to receiving more complaints following the closure of the gates, for opposing reasons, I have sought advice from Norfolk County Council's Health



and Safety team. They have advised that I am to continue to keep the gates locked until just before 9am and that it is your responsibility not the schools to supervise the children until school commences at 9am. I must also add, following the advice received, that any child left unsupervised will be considered a Safeguarding concern and their details will be passed onto the relevant agency.

Your child's safety is paramount to us, please supervise your child before school or use the before school arrangements the school can offer, breakfast club or the early drop off.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes



Carla Stedman

Headteacher  
The Bawburgh School



Stuart Kelly

Chair of Governors

