



Our Ref: AJC/MS

16 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: End of Half-Term

As we reach the end of a very unique half-term, I want to thank the children and families for their general support over the last 6 weeks. With the many changes in place, it has certainly been challenging at times for us all, but I think we have all come through the first half-term extremely well. I think this is my seventh letter since the start of September, which emphasises, not only the importance of communication but the ways in which we have all had to adjust.

Covid-19

I just wanted to update you all on our situation with cases of Covid-19. You will be aware that many schools in the region have had to send children home due to positive cases amongst staff and pupils. I just wanted to confirm that we have had no positive cases for pupils and no positive cases for staff. Where children have had to isolate, through either displaying possible symptoms or due to an issue with a family member, the correct procedures have been followed, in strict accordance with government and Public Health England guidance.

Just so you are aware, like all schools in the country, I have to complete a daily return which informs the national government of our current situation. I am also in regular contact with the local authority, liaising with them in the event of any situation. However, just to re-iterate, to date, we have not had any positive cases amongst any staff or any pupils.

Staggered Times

Linked to the above, the staggered times at the start and the end of the day, together with the addition of the new gate, have meant a much-improved situation since the start of September.

However, we still have small groups of parents who insist on arriving far too early and therefore, causing unnecessary risk to themselves, their children and others. Can I please emphasise again that you should not arrive before your gate is due to open. If everybody stuck rigidly to the times, as most people are, it would create an even safer environment for everyone.

In part, as a result of continued congestion at the Key Stage 1 playground entrance, and partly as there are now less classes using this entrance, I will be making the following change to the start of the day from **Monday 2 November 2020**:

	Staff	Start Time
Nursery	Mrs Stamford, Miss Copley and Mrs Barrass	8:45am
Reception (Ceres)	Miss Somerscales and Mrs King	8:45am
Year 1 (Lyra)	Miss Kapka, Mrs Backrath and Mrs Evison	8:45am

Please note, the times at the end of the day will remain the same.

Can I please ask that **you do not arrive before** 8:45am and when your children come through the gate, you leave immediately.

I will continue to review procedures and make you aware of any further changes.

My Ed App – Update of Information

With the current climate as it is, it is vital that we are able to communicate with you as easily as possible. As many of you will be aware, we use an app for parents to access certain information – ***this is known as the MY ED App.***

Many parents use this system but we wanted to make all new parents aware and send a reminder to anyone who might wish to subscribe or who has changed their phone number recently.

The App will enable you to access certain information about the Academy and will give you easy access to aspects such as the latest news items.

It also includes a message service, which will make it much easier for us to let you know about events and important news items, on a more regular basis. Texts to the App are free so it will allow us to send you more information than through a regular text message.

In addition, you will be able to access certain information about your own children - this is, of course, unique to your own account. For example, you will be able to see your children's up-to-date attendance.

I have included a clickable link at the end of this letter.

Where we have your email address, we will also email you the guide if you are not currently using the App.

Please note, the App is absolutely *free of charge*. It is easy to set up and use. I have included some basic instructions below to help you:

- Go to your app store on your phone.
- Search for '**My Ed**' and then download the app.
- You will be asked to select a school, where you will put **Pilgrim Academy**.
- You will also be asked to provide your mobile number and an email address - **please note, to give you access, your mobile phone number must be the number that we hold on our computer system. If it isn't, it will not work.**
- Once you have entered these details, you will be sent an activation code to your phone - which you will then have to enter into the App - this is for your own security.
- Please note, you will be able to access most of the App straight away. However, it will take 24 hours for you to access unique details, for example, attendance.
- Once you are in, you will be able to explore the various tabs.

Please note that if you change your mobile number you will need to download and register again as above with your new number.

Ideally, we would like all parents, who have access to Apps, to be using this system. That way, you will all have any updated information as soon as we send it through.

If you would like any advice, please speak to a member of the office administration team.

Smoking near the Academy

I have been made aware by a number of parents that a very small number of family members are smoking at the gates, particularly at the end of the day. Concerns have been raised, which I share, that some pupils are being exposed to smoke as they leave to go home.

Whilst, I cannot enforce this as it is a personal lifestyle choice and it is outside of the school premises, can I please ask everyone to be considerate of others and not smoke in or near the immediate area outside of the school gates.

I would really appreciate your understanding and support in this matter.

Frog

Further to previous messages, if you are still not using the Frog home learning system, could I please encourage you and the children to do so. I am pleased to say that approximately 70% of pupils are regularly using the system. Just a reminder to go to the Frog tab on our website for details and a video showing you how to use and access the system.

Hello Yellow Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Hello Yellow day last Friday by sending the pupils in an item of yellow clothing. It was a very positive day and was part of our general push to support the pupils with their mental health and well-being. There is a brief article and some lovely pictures on our website if you get a chance to have a look.

Return Date

I hope that you and your families have a very relaxing half-term holiday. I look forward to seeing the children for the second half of the Autumn Term on **Monday 2 November 2020**.

Yours faithfully



Mr A J Clark
Principal

**NEW
FOR PARENTS**



Connecting parents, students and schools



**Download our
school app
NOW**

Step 1: Go to your app store

1



Step 2: Search for My Ed

2



Step 3: Download the app

3

**FREE
Download**

Find out more

www.myedschoolapp.com