



Dear Parents,

The latest figures show how the COVID-19 transmission rate is increasing across Solihull. It is therefore imperative that we are all following Government guidance and we all adhere to the systems we have created to minimise risk. The safety of you, your families and school staff is our number one priority.

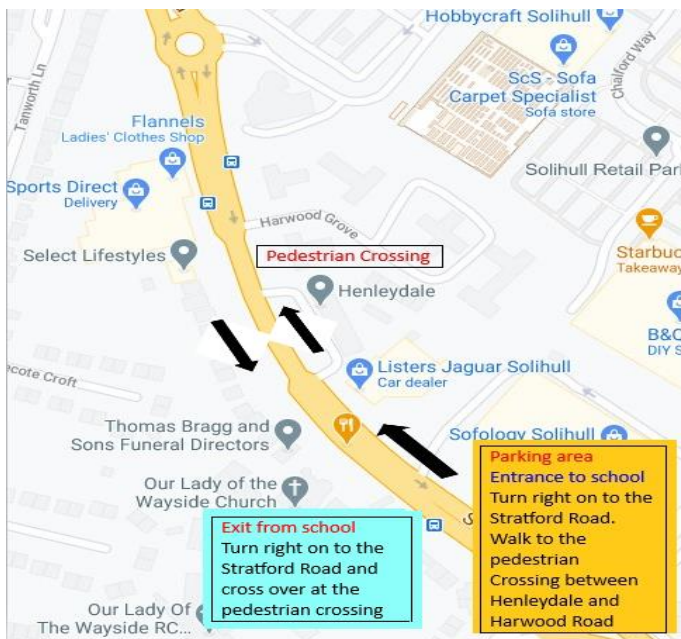
Yesterday, Wednesday 9th September, we forwarded a letter from Solihull Local Authority. The Local Authority raised their borough wide concern of parents gathering in groups on the school grounds or within the local area. Here at Our Lady of the Wayside, you have been fantastic at adhering to our 'collect and go' system and we have not witnessed parents stopping and gathering. Thank you for your support, we must maintain this in the coming weeks and months.

What is of concern to us, is where parents are struggling to maintain social distancing because of the volume of people at a particular point; we refer to this as a 'pinch point'. We have identified two pinch points of concern:

- Stratford Road footpath between Kwik-Fit and the Blackford Road roundabout.
- Puffin crossing close to the Blackford Road roundabout

To mitigate against this increased risk, earlier this week we wrote to you and recommended that anyone aged 12 or over to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children.

We now wish to put in an additional measure to reduce risk still further. From tomorrow, **Friday 11th September**, we recommend parents parking at the Retail Village carpark follow a one-way system; this will ease congestion at the two pinch points causing concern.



Route from the Retail Park Carpark to OLW School – we recommend parents walk up the Stratford Road in the direction of Sainsbury's. Parents cross the Stratford Road at the pelican crossing close to Sports Direct and proceed to school

Route from OLW School to the Retail Park Carpark – we recommend parents walk pass Kwik-Fit on their right hand side and cross on the puffin crossing close to the Blackford Road roundabout. Parents make their way to their parked car.



Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Ben Taylor B.Ed



Can we please also remind all parents to:

- Not to arrive at school early, this will stop long queues forming. There is no single time to drop or collect children, instead we have introduced a 'time window' with recommended timings based on surnames.
- Stand away from other parents, please maintain social distancing at all times.
- Please keep your children close to you.
- Please park considerably, do not obstruct driveways.
- Please consider parking at Sainsbury's to spread the direction of parents arriving at school. Please do not park at Porcelanosa (this is now reserved for staff parking only)

It will be some time before we return to what we once considered normal, so we will be working in these circumstances for the foreseeable future. We will continue to review our arrangements and amend them if required. We are truly blessed to have such amazing children and such supportive parents. Please do continue to support and follow our systems. We are stronger, and safer, when we all work together.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

B Taylor
Headteacher