



WARRENDER SCHOOL

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

Headteacher: Mrs H Brown

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11th September 2023

Class Dojo and School Communication

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Warrender, we have been using the portal, Class Dojo for several years to award children points for demonstrating our school values of achieve, support, pride, inspire, respect and enjoy. These points are collated weekly and contribute to the house point totals over a half term which children enjoy receiving. Many classes have also enjoyed viewing their peers' contributions to learning when they have uploaded videos or projects that they have worked on at home as part of their extended learning. 'School Story' and 'Class Story' is also a great tool to share up and coming messages with our whole school and class parent community.

In recent times, however, the private messaging function has become increasingly demanding on our teaching staff when they have received unpleasant and lengthy messages from parents. I also understand that parents have taken screenshots of private messages between the class teacher and parent and posted this on public class WhatsApp groups that are not affiliated with the school.

I am sure, as a parent community, you value the well-being of the staff at Warrender as much as I do as Headteacher. Research shows that workplaces where the mental well-being of staff is not prioritised, may suffer from poorer quality output and lower morale. Schools where mental well-being is prioritised are more likely to deliver the educational outcomes that the children deserve. Since these private messages are having a direct impact on staff's well-being, the senior and wider leadership team have decided that the private message function will not be available for parents and therefore, staff will **not** be accessing, reading or responding to private messages moving forward. We cannot disable this feature without allowing you continued access to 'School Story' and 'Class Story', which will remain in place, however we are changing private communication channels with the school, which are outlined below. **As from today, staff will be unable to respond to any private messages sent.** At this point, I think it is important to thank all those who have used this feature in a positive and respectful manner – those with quick clerical questions, requests for meetings or a message of thanks.

It is important that the communication between school and home remains strong. Therefore the following will be implemented in replacement of the private message function:

Roundups and reminders

Class teachers will post on class stories brief round-ups and any reminders for the parents in their class. If there are questions that you need clarifying, the comment function will remain available on these posts and teachers will respond there within working hours, if necessary.

Medical issues

If your child has received treatment for an injury that you need to be made aware of, a member of staff will complete a green medical slip and this will be sent home with your child in their school bag – for example: taken asthma medicine/heavy nose bleed etc. Mrs Sampson or a member of the office staff will call individual parents if a child has had a more serious incident – for example: a knock to the head.

Uniform message

You will receive a note home in your child's school bag if they are missing any uniform or items of P.E. kit.





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Changes to end of the day arrangements

If your child is being collected by a different person to who normally collects them (another parent from the class or family friend, for example), please inform the school by email before **11am** on the day, allowing us sufficient time to inform class teachers (teachers do not monitor their emails whilst teaching). In the event of an emergency or last-minute alteration, please call the school office as early as possible. Alternatively if your child is picked up regularly by other people/parents and you would like to send the school a list of people that you are happy to send your child with without us contacting you daily, please send an email to the school office.

Contact with the class teacher

Your first point of contact should always be the class teacher. Class teachers are available for conversations at the end of the day after their class has been dismissed. Please do wait to see them if you have a quick query. If your child is in breakfast or afterschool club and this is not possible, please see below for alternative ways to make contact. Likewise, every morning, myself, Mr Bornman and Mr Wright are on the gates to answer any questions. Throughout the year, there are various opportunities to meet with your class teacher, including a 'meet the teacher' meeting at the start of the year and parent consultation meetings. If, however, you wish to consult with a member of staff sooner, please complete the online form on our website requesting either a telephone or face-to-face appointment, including a brief outline of what will be discussed. The member of staff will then arrange a suitable time to meet with you.

The request form can be accessed through this QR code and this will be also displayed by the school office. Alternatively, you can find the request form under the Parents tab: Parent Meeting Request on our website. If you cannot complete this online, there are also paper copies of the request forms available by the school office.



Thank you in advance for your continued support in relation to these changes, and so supporting the mental health and well-being of our staff team.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Helen Brown - Headteacher

