

August 2020

Dear Neighbour

I am writing to you to make you aware of some changes at Backwell School that will be in place from Tuesday 1 September 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and building works taking place on the school site, we are having to make some changes to how our students travel to and from school. We are aware that the school community can have a wider effect on those living near the school and so wanted to write to you with the information we have recently shared with our parents/carers.

We have been working very closely with North Somerset Council and local councillors and businesses over the past few weeks to organise the following;

* Children are being encouraged to walk or cycle to school. They have been asked to observe social distancing while doing this and North Somerset Council are hoping to mark pavements around the school to support this.
* There will be traffic enforcement measures on Meadow Close and other roads off of Station Road. This means that parents can no longer drive onto the school site to drop off their children and should reduce traffic on Station Road.
* A park and stride scheme, working with The George, The Rising Sun and Nailsea and Backwell Station allowing parents to drop off and pick up their children at designated areas in the village.
* Any Year 11 students, who would usually be given a train pass by North Somerset Council to travel to school, will be transported directly onto the school site by coach. This will mean a reduction of students walking along Station Road to and from the train station.
* Sixth Form students will have extended home study (this means they will not be on the school site unless they have lessons) due to COVID-19.
* The school day will finish slightly earlier for certain year groups. This will mean a staggered departure from the school site from 3.00pm. which should reduce the volume of people leaving the site at one time.

We have also asked the following of the school community and we hope they respect our requests:

* Parents have been asked not to use residential roads neighbouring the school site to drop off and pick up their children.
* Parents have been asked not to use the Leisure Centre car park to drop off and pick up their children.
* Parents are aware that there will be consequences for those who breach traffic orders.
* Parents have been asked to speak to their children about road/cycle safety prior to their children returning to school. North Somerset Council are running some guided rides to school from Long Ashton in early September to support children who will be travelling to school this way.
* Those walking/cycling to school via the A370 are to use the pedestrian gate next to the leisure centre to reduce those using the pavements on Station Road.
* Sixth Form students can apply for a limited number of permits to park in the Leisure Centre car park. They have also been asked to walk/cycle to school where possible and to park safely and courteously when in Backwell Village.

Please be assured that we are very mindful of the impact these changes could have on the local area and that the safety of those walking and travelling around the school locality is at the forefront of our minds.

Full details on plans for reopening Backwell School in September, including transportation, can be found on our website: [www.backwellschool.net/sept2020](http://www.backwellschool.net/sept2020). Should you have any questions please email us at the school. Our address is: mailbox@backwellschool.net.

However if you have any concerns about obstructions, nuisance or breaches of traffic orders we do ask that you report these to the relevant authorities as we are unable to deal with these as a school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to politely ask that those living near to the school no longer use our school fields for recreation sports, walking dogs etc., even outside of school hours. We have been happy to share our resources with neighbours under lockdown but now that our students are returning we respectfully request that people stop using our site to help us maintain health, safety and safeguarding standards for our staff and students.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Mr J Nunes

Headteacher