



Oldfield Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Page



12th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to our Grab and Go System

Following our consultation with parents, carers and governors earlier this academic year, the school has decided to change our approach to Grab and Go starting in September 2023. Our intention is to approach Grab and Go as we would any other club which is providing extended day care.

On this page, you will find details of how Grab and Go will be run and on the following pages, we have shared the rationale and reasoning behind the changes. Once you have read this letter, if you have further questions, please do come and speak to me before school (I'm usually found by the KS2 gate) or please do contact me via the school office.

From 5th September 2023:

- Grab and Go users will need to complete a registration form (please see attachment)
- Grab and Go will be booked via Scopay
- Grab and Go can be booked in advance or up until 11.00am on the day
- There will be a limit of 60 pupils each day
- For most users, Grab and Go will cost £1 per child per day
- There will be one Grab and Go collection area (from the KS2 gate)
- Grab and Go will be organised and supervised by school staff.



Why are you limiting the number of children who can use Grab and Go?

We are limiting the number of children to 60 per day because we need to ensure we have adequate staff supervision and, with only three adults available to run Grab and Go each day, we have to limit the numbers for the children's safety. Furthermore, the Grab and Go system was originally designed for less pupils due to space availability and to support traffic flow so we are just reverting to the original plan in this regard. As a school with a comparatively small catchment area for admission, most of our pupils should be coming to and from school by foot.

Why are you charging for Grab and Go?

We are charging £1 per child per day for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it currently runs at a cost to the school (around £15000 per year) and we would rather be spending this money to support pupil progress and on educational visits. Secondly, we have kept the charge to a minimum in order that we 'break even' on the cost of Grab and Go – the school will not be running it for profit. We are also introducing a charge in line with other RBWM schools offering a later collection. Finally, this brings consistency to our approach to extended day care (as we are providing up to 40 minutes additional childcare for Grab and Go users each day). However, in the event you have a particularly compelling need to use Grab and Go yet would find the daily charge prohibitive, please complete the 'reason for use' section of the Grab and Go registration form to be considered for free use of this service. This will be limited and at the discretion of the Headteacher and Governors.

Have you considered the impact on working parents and carers?

We did take this into consideration. However, we offer after-school clubs each day and Wise Owls is open to all pupils from the first day of term until the last day of the academic year. There are many options at our school for those families wishing to collect their child at a later time.

Can I collect by car if I do not want to use Grab and Go?

Families using after school clubs and Wise Owls can continue to collect by car. For parents and carers wishing to collect their children after school by car, the only facility we offer is Grab and Go. If families wish to park nearby and then walk on to site at 3.20 pm, please do not park on nearby residential roads. It is very important for us to maintain good relationships with our neighbours so please avoid illegal, inconsiderate and dangerous parking on nearby roads including in The Fisheries, on Chiltern Road or on Chalgrove Close. Neighbours will be contacting the school if they have concerns regarding parent and carer parking and will also be working with external agencies to impose penalties where applicable. Commercial car parks on Stafferton Link offer ample parking (please see their terms and conditions for any restrictions).

Will there be changes to other collection arrangements at the school?

No. Pedestrians are still welcome to collect their children between 3.20pm and 3.30pm each day. Pupils in Y5 and Y6, with written parental permission, are still able to walk home unaccompanied by an adult. Children attending clubs or Wise Owls after school care are still welcome to be collected on foot or by car at the agreed collection times. Cars will still only be allowed to enter the school site before 3.40 pm with the written permission of the Headteacher – this tends to be reserved for the parents and carers of pupils in our school with additional needs and disabilities. It is also worth noting there will be no changes to Kiss and Drop each morning for pupil drop off.

How do I book Grab and Go?

Grab and Go can be booked on Scopay following a completed registration form being returned to the office. If you would like to use Grab and Go from the first day back in September, please ensure your completed registration form is returned to the office by Wednesday 19th July so the administrative staff have time to action this. You can then book up to a term in advance and payment can be made online – payments must be made in advance. Booking will close at 11.00am each day to give the office staff time to generate lists and share these with relevant staff. Refunds will not be given in the event you do not use Grab and Go. However, should your circumstances change in the long-term and advanced bookings have been made, refunds can be requested through the school office.

What do I do if Grab and Go is full on the day I would like to use it?

You will need to make other arrangements for your child. You may want to consider using Wise Owls or, if you regularly need to collect late on a particular day, consider one of the many after school clubs we offer. Alternatively, collect on foot at 3.20pm or liaise with a family member or friend to collect instead at 3.20pm.

What will happen if I do not collect my child by 3.30 pm on foot and I have not signed them up to Grab and Go?

We appreciate anyone can be late or have made a mistake regarding a booking occasionally. Your child's class teacher will escort your child to the school office, we will call you to find out where you are and they will be supervised in the office. However, if this were to happen on multiple occasions, we would consider introducing late collection charges, working with Wise Owls (where their charges would apply) or liaising with external agencies to ensure your child is collected on time. This approach would bring us into line with the practice in other RBWM schools.

What will happen if I have not booked by 11.00am but I need to use the service?

Again, we appreciate occasionally plans can change at the last-minute. As a one-off, if there was space, the office may be able to add your child to Grab and Go (providing your child has been registered and there is credit on your account). However, if there was no space, or this happened repeatedly, the onus would be on the parent or carer to make alternative arrangements.

As previously mentioned, please do contact me through the office or come for a chat before school if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards



Catherine Page
Headteacher