Fir Tree Primary School

Radnor Road
Wallingford
Oxon OX10 0NY
Phone: 01491 836341
Interim Executive Headteacher: Matt Watt

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

As Interim Executive Headteacher, I have been reviewing the systems, procedures and practices across the school to ensure that they are effective and, most importantly, that they keep all children safe. As part of this process, I have also sought further professional advice regarding a number of areas of school operation, including arrangements for pupils arriving at and leaving school.

Following this review, it has become clear that there are a number of safeguarding risks associated with Year 5 pupils walking to and from school without adult supervision. While we recognise that many children are sensible and responsible, safeguarding must always be our primary consideration. We therefore need to make a change to our current arrangements.

From Monday 19th October, all Year 5 pupils must be accompanied to and from school by a responsible adult. This means that the children will need to be brought to the wooden gates as a minimum in the morning, to hand over to the school staff, and in the afternoon, collected from the classroom. Children should not walk to or from school independently.

I appreciate that this change may present challenges for some families and may require adjustments to daily routines. However, I have been struck by the strong sense of community within our school and by the many ways in which parents support one another. I hope that, where appropriate, families may be able to work together to help manage these new arrangements.

I would also like to remind parents that both our Breakfast Club and Fir Tree Fun Time provision are available to support families who may need additional flexibility at the start or end of the school day.
I recognise that this decision may cause disappointment and inconvenience for some children and families. Please be assured that it has not been taken lightly. Our responsibility is to ensure that all pupils are as safe as possible, and I believe this change is the right step to help us meet that responsibility.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to keep all of our children safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Watt