



10 February 2021

## **An update on Cotham School Playing Fields, Stoke Lodge.**

Dear parents, carers, friends and community,

The school is extremely busy running a virtual school for most students as well as an on-site school for children of critical workers and vulnerable students. We are writing to provide an update on our school playing fields at Stoke Lodge and ask for your cooperation in using the fields during this lockdown.

Throughout this lockdown, the school has been able to leave the playing fields open for the public to use. We are aware that many people have been enjoying using them, but unfortunately there are some who are abusing the facility.

We are requesting that everyone making use of the site follows the rules around their use. These are school playing fields and members of the public are not permitted to exercise their dogs on them. No dogs are allowed on the field. Therefore dog owners are asked to immediately stop using our playing field to exercise their dogs. Thank you.

For everyone's safety the fields are open during daylight hours and after dark they are closed to public access. Some of the gates are being propped open. This is unhelpful and there is absolutely no need to do this. When gates are propped open they cannot be locked electronically at the end of the day. We are politely asking those responsible for this behaviour desist. We would be grateful if members of the public notice that a gate is propped open, that they could remove the obstacle causing this. The fields are closed after daylight hours for everyone's safety and security.

We will shortly be removing our football posts. We are aware many people have been using them but unfortunately this has caused excessive wear and tear. If members of the public wish to practise shooting goals we request that other parts of the fields are used so that the grass around the goal posts has a chance to recover. Thank you.

With regard to the school land beyond the fence, we are aware that some people have been spreading bark chippings. This action has not been agreed with the school. If you are a member of the public who has engaged in this behaviour please stop. Instead please contact the school to discuss any action you are thinking of taking on school land.

We are pleased to provide an update that the works to renovate the school sports pavilion are going well. These should be completed by the end of March, after which time the school and local clubs will be able to enjoy the new facilities. Regrettably there has recently been a break-in to the site. Should members of the public see anyone acting suspiciously around the pavilion or indeed anywhere on the site, do please phone the police on 101.



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Some individuals are taking photographs of staff at our fields and drone images are being taken of the pavilion works. We have asked previously and now do so again that members of the public do not take any further photos of school staff, governors or students. The playing fields are part of our school premises and therefore the taking of photographs or filming using drones should be with the express permission of the school or the individual in question.

We are expecting a government announcement about the wider reopening of schools in the next week or so. We will keep you updated. From the point of a wider reopening, we will return to normal school hours and the fields will be closed to public access when in use by the school.

In the meantime, enjoy half term, and keep safe.

Best wishes,

Cotham School



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