

December, 1969.

Dear Parents,

You will remember that I have, during the past two years, on several occasions made reference to the time that School opens, in the morning in particular. I feel it is necessary to refer to this matter again and I give below a copy of a letter suggested by the Authority to meet this particular matter. Our official opening times are 8.30 a.m. and 1.25 in the afternoon. I have always told you that, where it was unavoidable for reasons of public transport arrangements for a boy to arrive somewhat earlier than 8.30 in the morning, we would not let him remain outside the school on the pavement. I am, nevertheless, astonished to see some boys arriving as early as 8 o'clock from time to time. Will you therefore be good enough to note carefully the contents of the Authority's letter. If there is any special problem I know you will let me know personally.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN ON SCHOOL PREMISES
BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MORNING
SESSION

" It sometimes happens that certain pupils come to school for morning or afternoon session before the arrival of myself or any of the Assistant Staff. Where this happens it is, of course, the practice for the pupils to be admitted by the Caretaker to the school premises, especially when it is necessary for them to take shelter, or to the playground, for their protection. This does, however, raise the question of responsibility for the safety of pupils admitted in this way; and I understand that this matter has been considered by the Education Authority in the light of advice as to the legal position given by the Clerk of the County Council. As a result, I am asked to make it clear that, until the teaching staff arrive, at the appointed time, there can be no supervision and consequently the Authority cannot accept responsibility for the safety of pupils admitted before this time, either to the playground or to the school building. If your own son does arrive at school before the appointed time, and is admitted, it is, therefore, on the understanding, which you will be deemed to have acknowledged, that the Authority cannot be responsible for any accidents which may occur, or otherwise for the safety of your son, until the teaching staff arrive to carry out their duties.

I know you will understand that this letter is only sent to you in order that the position of the Authority (and of its teachers) concerning responsibility may be clearly understood. It in no way indicates any lessening of the desire of myself and the teaching staff of the school to do all we can for the welfare of your son.

I would also explain that this letter is not intended to refer to those pupils who, by arrangement with the Headmaster, take midday dinner at school and remain there during the whole of the midday recess. The supervision of those pupils during that time will continue. "

Yours sincerely,

