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Education and Families

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TO ALL DRIVERS WHO USE OUR CAR PARKS & SURROUNDING APPROACH ROADS

URGENT APPEAL!

Since the start of term, I have been extremely concerned by the driving and parking behaviours both on school grounds and in the surrounding streets and round about. To say there is inconsiderate parking and unsafe driving would be an understatement.

I have been contacted by Parents and Carers and also concerned neighbours. This afternoon, at the 3pm dismissal, people witnessed a car being driven **the wrong way around the roundabout** directly outside the school gate; presumably to avoid the queue.

As Head Teacher, I cannot enforce laws, I simply have to encourage **everyone who drives the school run** to do their best to be safe and remind you all regularly that we everyone have a responsibility.

To date, we have witnessed the following concerning issues:

- Long queues to get into the school car park.
- The volume of cars within the car parks in the morning but particularly at 3pm.
- The number of cars parking on the pavements on Laburnum Road.
- Cars are even parked in the zig-zag lines near the Pelican Crossing, which is illegal.
- Verbal abuse when drivers are asked to park elsewhere. Our Lollipop Man has been subject to this on a number of occasions.
- Cars parked and double parked around the car park.
- Cars/Vans mounting the pavements around the Zebra Crossing within the car park.
- Cars mounting the pavement where there are bollards to stop this.
- Cars/Vans blocking other cars into spaces.
- Disabled spaces blocked or used by people who do not technically require them.
- Cars blocking the Bus Stop where the children access the School Transport.
- The over-flow car park is regularly almost empty in the mornings. More people could make better use of this space in the mornings instead of driving into the school grounds.
- Children exiting cars and vans at random points within the car park.



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- Neighbours being blocked from accessing their driveway or unable to pass in their own street due to poor parking.
- Wet weather simply adds to the problem, with more drivers in the area!

There is one certainty in all of this, which is our car park will never be expanded. We are simply going to have to rely on drivers making better choices. This could include:

- Park and Stride – find a space away from the school grounds and walk the last leg of your journey (use the church/overflow/other space).
- Consider whether you **really need to drive!** Could you be within walking/cycling or scooting distance?
- Car share – bring one vehicle with a few children – share the cost of petrol!

In addition, I would ask drivers to:

- Park in a designated space.
- Do not block drivers in.
- Do not park on pavements.
- Do not let your children out of the car and into the path of a moving vehicle – remember parked cars can move and have limited view!
- Treat our neighbours and other drivers with respect. Ultimately, the safety of our children should be our main concern. However, it is not appropriate to simply care about our own families. We all need to be considerate to **everyone!**

I have been in contact with our local councillors and also Police Scotland to ask for their support with this matter. Things might only get worse when the new housing estate is being built in the field next to the over-flow car park. This is why we need to act now to change the behaviours of drivers.

I would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation and effort to make our car park and the streets around our school safe.

With renewed good wishes,

Kris Thomas
Head Teacher