



Growing and Learning Together in God's Love

St Mark's CofE Primary School

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Friday 1st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am saddened to let you know that one of our pupils was clipped by a car as he walked to school earlier this week. Following a brief visit to hospital, he was thankfully given the all-clear, and no long-term damage was done. He was understandably shaken, as anyone would have been.

It could have been worse. A lot worse.

This took place on a local residential road where parents regularly drop off their children or wait to pick up their children after school. But it could have happened on a number of local roads close to the school.

The overwhelming majority of parents who drive are highly respectful of our traffic laws, and use their common sense when determining where to park. They drive slowly, understanding that if they drive fast, they are endangering the lives of our pupils and people within our community. Of course many parents are able to walk with their child, and this hugely benefits local congestion and improves the safety for our pupils.

Thank you so much. We really do appreciate it.

There are unfortunately a small number of drivers who sadly don't show regard for our local residents because they park across driveways or clog up local roads to get a slightly closer parking space. They also don't show regard for the lives of those in our community because they drive too fast or park dangerously. It's not right, and it's dangerous. If this is you, please can you stop and think carefully before some very serious damage is done. The idea of getting somewhere 30 seconds faster or 100m closer pales into insignificance at the thought of a child being injured, or worse.

I regularly receive complaints from local residents who write to me with concerns about the safety of our pupils due to irresponsible parking or driving. Of course they sometimes express frustration about not being able to get out of their drives, too.

We have 630 pupils coming on our school site around 8:30am, and 630 pupils leaving around 3:20pm. Please can I ask everyone to think carefully about how they can do their part to ensure that during these times, all of our pupils are kept safe through the responsible actions of all drivers, and also that our local residents are treated respectfully.

Further, if you spot bad parking or poor driving, please feel free to take a photo and email to the school. We may well begin to "show and shame" those who cause difficulties. We would rather do this and change a situation than deal with an accident involving a member of our school community.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. We all look forward to a safer situation on our local roads, for the benefit of everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Applegate
Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Mr Charles Applegate
Deputy Head: Mrs Claire Cooper
Assistant Head: Mrs Nicola Ford
Assistant Head: Mrs Rebekah Alsey

