

8th February 2017

Dear Parents

I think we are all aware of the peaks in traffic flow around school at the beginning and end of the day and the frustration we all feel when we are held up. Congestion occurs at peak times when the commuter traffic which is passing through meets parents legitimately trying to park and drop off children and this is compounded if ever there is an accident or hold up in the vicinity.

The school is often wrongly blamed for incidents caused by passing drivers and indeed a member of staff lost her car's wing mirror last week caused by a careless driver. I am sad to say however, that I have had two very serious incidents reported to me in the last couple of days. In both cases there have been angry exchanges outside school and within earshot of other pupils. I do not feel that this is a satisfactory situation. Our school has a good reputation which I am sure we all wish to uphold. I would hope that any driver, (parent or commuter) in charge of a vehicle, could remain calm and not lose control at any time but particularly in the presence of school children.

I have written previously about being alert to the needs of others around the village. It only takes a couple of incidents of inconsiderate behaviour to tarnish our reputation and jeopardise local support. Please be patient around other vehicles. Please avoid parking on the bend and please do not block access to and from residents' properties. In order to retain the support of the village for the school it is vital we respect each other's space and continue to treat each other with courtesy.

Parents will be aware of the efforts I have made to resolve the difficulties we face given our location. To make dropping off easier, we offer attendance at Breakfast Club which gives families a chance to stagger their arrival times. I believe the presence of our School Crossing Patrol Officer has made it much safer for our pupils to cross the road. I am in regular discussion with the Council in an attempt to improve signage, speed controls and lay-bys. Unfortunately, other than staggering our travelling times, due to the width of the road, the increasing volume of traffic and local budget constraints, there is no easy solution. We shall all have to be patient.

If there are any incidents, I would urge parents to report it to the school and it will add weight to my negotiations with the Council.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely

Miss K Finney
Head Teacher