

Monday 25th September 2017

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware that over the summer holidays Balfour Beatty carried out works to the verge in front of the wall at the main entrance of the school, which is adjacent to the school crossing area and public footpath.

Whilst improving the situation in terms of eradicating the muddy and often slippery verge the newly tarmacked surface has created unexpected risks to pedestrians who walk in front of the wall from the footpath to the school as vehicles move into the area, often quickly, to give way to oncoming vehicles. Drivers are often unaware that families may be in this space. Last week we had a site meeting with Balfour Beatty, at our request, to highlight our concerns about the safety of families crossing the road and using the footpath. We have requested a metal barrier to be erected at the end of the footpath which would create a physical barrier and protect the safety of families by preventing cars using this as a passing place. In order for such a barrier a kerb has to be built, which increases the cost of the works and therefore makes this a more long term solution.

A temporary solution has been offered of some plastic bollards which hopefully will be in situ in around 28 days, whilst I have stressed the importance of a more suitable and safer solution as our priority.

I am pleased to report that after raising a concern that the yellow school zig zags lines had faded and been covered over by the summer works they have now been freshly repainted last Friday.

We also continue to work with Local Councillors and the County council to seek a layby /drop off zone to ensure that at some point in the not too distant future we can have a safe place for children to exit their vehicles on the same side of the road as their school.

In order to ensure that we all keep as safe as possible in this interim period please make certain that you only cross the road at the designated crossing space with our Road Crossing Patrol Officer Mr Watson. Mr Watson has raised concerns on several occasions this term about the safety of the youngest children crossing the road. This is when crossing over to the footpath, but more especially coming down the footpath at the end of the school day when youngsters are often not holding the hand of an adult. Please support us by making sure that you have a firm hold of all children that you are accompanying over the road and continue to hold tight until you reach your vehicle. Please also only allow children to get in and out of the car on the pavement side of the road and do not drop them off in the school gateway to walk along the school wall to the footpath unaccompanied.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Kind regards,

Kerri Finney
Head teacher