



Tuesday 5th July 2022

REF: Car Parking

Dear Parents / Carers

On one hand, I share exciting news, that from September 2022, our school will have grown to in excess of 200 children. It hardly seems 2 minutes ago that we opened with a total of 33!!

With this growth, however, comes an increase in the traffic and number of cars accessing the car park. Whilst we were so small and building work was still taking place opposite our school entrance, in the interests of Health and Safety, we made the commitment to allow parent access to the school car park. However, as we all knew, this was to be a temporary measure and one that could not continue as we grew.

Our car park is becoming increasingly busy already and we have serious concerns for the safety of your children, as spaces are not used properly and despite reminders, a number of parents are driving far too fast. There have been reported 'near misses' recently, and monitoring from the Health and Safety executives of our Trust has concluded that the car park, with the growth of our school, will become even more unsafe in the next academic year. Coupled with this, spaces will be scarce, as we have a number of new staff joining the school.

Therefore, from September 2022, we have taken the decision to close our school car park to parents. The gates will be closed and monitored by John Burtoft, our Site Manager, and will be re-opened once school drop-off / pick-up is over. John will, of course, allow access to parents or children who hold a blue disability badge – this will need to be displayed clearly in the windscreen of your car. The car park will also be available for drop-offs and collections to / from Breakfast and After School Clubs.

Whilst this decision may appear a tricky one to make, we are only ensuring the safety of your children whilst on school site – we absolutely do have their best interests at heart.

On the flip side, we also must ensure that we work together as a community in keeping our local area equally safe for our children and for our neighbours who also need to access driveways, park themselves etc. So far, the majority of our neighbours have been very supportive of our school – let's try to keep it this way by being respectful of them and their needs.

As the majority of children live within walking distance of the school, in the interests of sustainability and healthy practice, we would love to see as many children as possible walking / cycling / scootering to school. However, should you live a distance away and need to drive, we **STRONGLY** advise against parking on the road running parallel facing our

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school building (Old Tram Drive), as it is very narrow and would certainly block access for our residents. In addition, please allow suitable access to our school entrance.

The Academy Community Board has explored alternative solutions, such as a walking bus from a safe drop off point, but unfortunately, due to the young age of our children, this is not a feasible option at the moment. Ratios for adults to children from Nursery – Ks1 would need to be 1:4 and 1:6 respectively, so far too many adults would be required for safety reasons. In addition, despite enquiring, there appears to be no safe drop-off / collection point available for use. We also considered that whilst your children are so young, you, as parents, would want the beginning and end of day contact with the school and staff. Perhaps this is an option to be revisited in the near future as our children progress into KS2.

Whilst the closing of the car park may be a disappointment for some, I am sure you agree that the safety of our children is of paramount importance and one that cannot be ignored for convenience sake.

Please be assured that we are keen to work with you on this matter, so should you have any further suggestions, we would welcome ideas!

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. A. Fairbrother'.

Kate Fairbrother
Headteacher