



# Stamford Green Primary School



28 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Sensible parking is for life not just for Christmas!**

As we approach this very festive time of year, I am writing to every single person that drops off and collects in a car from Stamford Green to appeal to you all to help me solve a problem please.

We are proud that our school values are at the heart of everything we do and many parents want their child to come to Stamford Green because of our unique values based ethos and approach in developing the whole child, to be a positive citizen of the future. Alongside this, we feel it is important to build a community through school life; Generations Coffee Mornings, Come and Play toddler sessions and resident newsletters are an integral part of our school. However, parking issues are damaging relations and dividing our community as well as undermining all our hard work as a school. This week alone, we have had three people come into school and four emails complaining about parking on local roads.

### **Issues**

- The local roads already have cars parked on them before school related traffic arrives. Therefore, space to park near to the school is at a premium so the majority of people are going to have to accept that they may have to 'park and stride' to reach school. Distances to walk always seem further but in reality doesn't take that long to walk. Did you know that it is only 370 steps from the top of Christ Church Mount to school and 430 steps from the other end of Lower Hill Road? Instead of walking round your houses to get your Fitbit steps up, could you park and walk a bit further instead?
- Local residents make sure that the environment, as we approach school, is lovely and spend time tending to their verges where bulbs are planted to flower in the spring. Lower Hill Road residents are particularly and understandably upset that their verges are being churned up and becoming muddy and posts that are supporting trees have been knocked down by cars. In addition to this, they are also having to deal with people parking across their drives so they cannot enter or exit their homes.



When local residents have tried asking parents to not ruin the environment they have sadly been met with abusive behaviour. This worries me for several reasons but mainly because it is not what we want modelled to the children as nobody would want this happening to their child.

- Parents/Carers driving into the staff car park drop/collect children is causing unnecessary stress to staff trying to enter and leave school. In addition, this poses a danger to children when they are passed over the fence in the staff car park because the staff gate is locked. Indeed, I witnessed some spectacularly bad driving, when parents were collecting from after school clubs on Thursday, which made me late. I could not leave the staff car park as people collecting were waiting in the entrance to the staff car park. When they went to drive off, they

then proceeded to do a five point turn in Lower Hill Road instead of driving a bit further down and parking. Needless to say there were a few other frustrated people driving behind me as the road was then completely blocked by this one person's actions.

- Drivers stopping in the entrance to the staff car park to let children out of cars is not only dangerous as your child/ren are stepping out onto a road but it is also extremely selfish as it holds up the traffic.

### Solutions

- As a school we are currently writing guidance for people in possession of a disabled blue badge who might be entitled under the DDA Act 2010 to use the staff car park.
- We will be installing a barrier to restrict access to the staff car park and ensure a safe crossing across the entrance for pupils.
- We would be grateful if you joined in with the voluntary one way system, which is in operation at the start and end of the school day, in an attempt to minimise access difficulties around Christ Church Mount with cars. To ease the congestion we would ask you to enter Christ Church Mount so that the school is on your left. Lower Hill Road and the rest of Christ Church Mount should then be used to exit. The system operates between 8.30am and 9.05am and between 2.55pm and 3.30pm.
- Park legally, safely and in a community spirited way, even if you are running late.
- If you do need to drive your child to school please consider parking a short distance from the school. This is a good way for children to start the day and has the added benefit of reducing traffic in the local roads around the school.
- Please do not park illegally (this includes double and single yellow lines).
- Please do not park on our neighbours' grass verges.
- Please do not park across driveways or road entrances thus blocking the way for other road users.
- Do follow the Highway Code and avoid stopping on white lines and yellow zig zags.
- When we receive notifications of inconsiderate parking or dangerous driving we ask that these are reported directly to the Police via the following link: <https://surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/reporting-anti-social-behaviour-and-driving/>. The more we all report it, the more likely we are to get a response and some assistance from other agencies.

### The Highway Code clearly states:

#### **Rule 243a DO NOT** stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities

**except** when forced to do so by stationary traffic.

#### **Rule 244**

You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and **should not do so elsewhere** unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

We are proud of the education and opportunities we provide for your child/ren. However, to be truly outstanding for our pupils, we continue to focus on refining areas of school life that are brilliant by improving them by 1%. This is the strategy that Sir Dave Brailsford adopted when leading the British cycling team to success. As it is the season for goodwill to all, followed by New Year resolutions, I do hope that you might change something or try something new to improve the situation. Imagine, if everyone on the school run tried to improve by 1%, what could be achieved.

Thank you for the efforts you already make and also in anticipation of an improving situation.

Louise Druce  
Headteacher