

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

We are aware of, and some of us have witnessed first-hand, incidents of dangerous driving and concerning behaviour outside the Butler Road school entrance at drop off and pick up times. There have been at least two near misses involving children and we know that the cars involved have been driven by our parents/carers.

These incidents are unacceptable and completely avoidable. We are urgently requesting that our whole school community take responsibility for the safety of our pupils at these critical points in the day. For those that have no alternative but to drive to the school, please consider taking a route that does not involve driving past the Butler Road school entrance at peak times, and please do **not** stop, even briefly, on the yellow lines.

A member of school staff, usually Mr Holland, is routinely stood at the end of the access road to help manage the flow of children in and out of the school, but he cannot also be responsible for managing traffic. On occasion, when he has recently asked parents/carers who have parked or are waiting in a dangerous place, he has received verbal abuse. This is also utterly unacceptable.

This behaviour is unfortunately not limited to those driving. Groups of parents/carers are congregating near or around the Butler Road entrance, predominantly in the afternoon. This is blocking the pathway for others, plus the driveways of residents, causing additional problems. Please may we ask you to arrive at the school as close to your child's allotted time as possible and not to stand in groups, especially near the school entrance. Please keep a social distance from others at all times.

We appreciate that the vast majority of you are following the current guidelines, are careful when dropping off and picking up your children and are being respectful of others - Thank you. As Mrs West has stated regularly in her communications, your support for the school, especially considering the pressures you have faced recently from home schooling has been much appreciated. We all hope that these restrictions will be lifted in due course when it is safe to do so, and in the meantime we hope that you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation over the Easter break.

With best wishes,

Oaklands Junior School Local Governing Body