Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Dear Parents and Carers,

START OF TERM TRAVEL UPDATES

As we start the new academic year, we want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of safe and considerate travel practices around the school. Ensuring the safety of all our pupils is our highest priority, and we truly appreciate your cooperation in making our school environment as secure as possible.

Use of the school car park

Please note, the school car park is **closed** between **7.45am and 4.30pm** each day. Parents and Carers are not permitted to drop off or collect their children from the school car park between these times. Last year, some 'near misses' occurred when cars were manoeuvring in the car park at the same time that children were nearby. The school gates will be locked during the school day.

Driving at speed

While the speed limit on the roads around the school is currently 30mph, we think this is much too fast. Please go slowly and be aware of the dangers. Remember, **'twenty is plenty'** outside a busy school.

Double parking and parking on the pavement

We would kindly ask that all parents and carers refrain from double parking (cars parked on both sides of the road) around the school. Double parking creates significant hazards for our children, particularly when they are crossing the road. It also means that in the event of an emergency, an ambulance or fire engine might not be able to reach the school or our local residents.

Please see this video for further details, including examples of 'double parking' and the problems it can cause.

We have also noticed parents choosing to park on the pavement by the green outside school which blocks the pavement and is also extremely dangerous - we have had more than one 'near miss' where small children have been walking on the path and a driver hasn't seen them as they have reversed up onto the pavement.

These inconsiderate parking practices put everyone at risk and can cause unnecessary delays for our wider community. We encourage everyone at our school to walk, cycle or scoot to school. On the days when this isn't possible, please help alleviate congestion and keep our children safe by using the following travel initiatives:

Park and stride

To help alleviate congestion and promote healthy habits, please consider parking a little further away from the school and enjoying a short walk with your child for the final part of the journey. Not only does this reduce traffic, but it also provides a wonderful opportunity for some fresh air and conversation before the school day begins.

KS2 drop off zone

Each morning, we encourage Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) families to use our designated drop-off zone, where staff meet children from their parents'/carers' cars at the bottom of the drive.

Rear gate morning entry to school

Please also remember that our rear gate is open every morning, **from 8.15 to 8.25am**, providing another convenient and safe access point to the school grounds. This gate can be accessed via a footpath accessible from Bridgewater Road and Meadow Road.



Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (KS2) can enter the gate on their own and walk across the field into school.

Children in Nursery through to Year 2 (Early Years and KS1) can enter the gate with a parent or carer and walk across the field, through the lower playground towards the car park, then up onto the top playground

to wait for their class teacher. Please allow enough time to get to the top playground for the whistle at 8.30am.

After drop off, parents or carers must leave the school site through the front gates as the rear gate will now be closed. Please note, the path up to the rear gate is quite narrow in places. It will be fine for anyone on foot, but you might find it difficult with a pushchair or pram.

Avoid confrontation

Finally, we would like to remind everyone of our Parent Code of Conduct Policy. While we understand that parking issues can sometimes be frustrating, we respectfully request that parents do not confront other drivers or parents about incorrect parking. Unfortunately, such confrontations have, on occasion, led to disputes taking place in front of our children, which is not an appropriate example for them. Should you have any concerns regarding parking or other road safety matters, please notify the school office directly, and we will address them promptly and appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to keeping all our children safe. We look forward to a successful and safe academic year.

Walking Bus

The walking bus is not able to resume this term as we do not have enough volunteers. Please contact us if you are interested in helping with the walking bus.

Save the date - Walk, cycle or scoot to school day

On Friday 25th September we will be holding our Walk, Cycle or Scoot to School Day which is when we ask all of our Bridgewater families to walk, cycle or scoot to school as part of our Modeshift Active and Safer Travel Plan. 'Parking and Striding' also counts – why not park your car (safely and considerately) 5 minutes away from the school and then walk the last part of your journey together?

Kind regards,

Andrea Bettridge