

23rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Safety Reminders

Following a string of recent events where the safety of our children and community have been compromised, I would like to share a few important reminders with you.

1. Parking

We are repeatedly having cause to address parking issues outside our Nursery entrance and car park. We often have reports of parents parking in strictly prohibited areas of Brooks Road: on the zig-zag lines, parallel to the crossing barrier, on the 'School Entrance' markings - causing an obstruction for our neighbours, the local bus service and emergency vehicles. Parking in these areas is strictly prohibited during the hours of 8.00-10.00am and 2.00-4.00pm and liable to a Penalty Charge Notice issued by the local council.

This is an extremely dangerous practice, putting yourself and others at risk. We have witnessed the congestion this parking causes, with general traffic unable to proceed along Brooks Road past these vehicles. It also blocks the view for drivers entering and leaving our car parks and is dangerous to pedestrians crossing outside the Academy.

We understand that it is very busy along Brooks Road at peak drop-off and pick-up times, and it is not always possible to park in the designated drop-off and pick-up zone outside the Academy.

Parking unsafely also damages your child's school's reputation within the community. You should want us spending our time on your child's education, not replying to parking concerns.

Please allow a little extra time to find a safe and considerate place to park.

2. Dogs

Please may we remind you that we **do not** allow dogs, other than assistance dogs, on the Academy site and we have signs on our gates to reinforce this. Dogs should be left outside the Academy when you enter the site; if you do not wish to do this, then please don't bring them with you.

We understand that we have our own school dog, for which we have thorough risk assessments, insurance, strict protocols and supervision in place.

3. **Safety within the Academy Grounds**

To help keep everyone safe, please remember that children must not ride scooters or bikes on Academy premises. Children must dismount outside the Academy and walk them in and out – scooters and bikes being stored on site must be walked into the Bike Store and left securely. Those caught riding their scooters on the premises will receive a friendly warning in the first instance - those that ignore this warning will receive a ban.

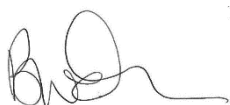
We must also ask that children do not play ball games or tag at the beginning or end of the day, again, for everyone's safety.

4. **Children Cycling to and from School**

Some of our older children ride their bicycles to and from school each day. A worried parent contacted us recently after their child had experienced a near miss with a car being driven by a Brookside parent. Please be extra vigilant and patient when driving near cyclists, especially children. A moment's lapse could result in tragic consequences for the cyclist and yourself.

Thank you for your help with these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Walton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brian Walton