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Dear Parents/Carers

Last week there were several afternoons when cars were parked dangerously on the school site – around the internal roundabout, even partly across the entrance to the Staff Car Park. There were also many vehicles parked in the Staff Car Park itself without a permit. As a result, **there were children walking in all areas of the car park and on access roads, with vehicles moving around them – this is a recipe for injury or worse.**

We appreciate that parking in the surrounding area is limited, and that it is tempting to park in the Staff Car Park, especially when the weather is poor – but **please, for the sake of the children's safety, do not do this.** Persistent offenders will be identified and contacted.

Car Park Permits

Please remember that **only parents who have applied for and received a parking permit, and are displaying it on their dashboard, should be using the Staff Car Park**, either before or after school (exceptions apply when parents/carers are providing transportation for pupils to/from sporting or other events, or volunteering in school, on that day alone). Permits are applied for on the basis of adult or pupil mobility, or relevant pupil SEND. Since only these few parent/carer vehicles should be accessing the site at the end of the day, cones are now being placed across the usual entrance to deter misuse – permit holders should access the car park near the internal roundabout.

Permitted users of the car park should still remember, when leaving/returning to your car, to use the car park footpath by the hedge alongside the main road for as long a distance as possible, minimising the time you and your child are walking across the car park to a straight run from your vehicle to the path. Walking through the vehicle access area of the car park, even with parking permission, poses the same risk of injury.

Regarding the waste ground near the main entrance, which was the area for the builders' cabins during construction, we had initially (pre-opening in 2018) hoped that we might use this to provide some parent parking. However, this would both be contrary to CWAC's healthy school journeys policy and, more important, inherently dangerous, since cars would need to access this area across the main footpath, which is in constant pedestrian use at the start and end of the school day. Hence, it is not an option to convert this area for parking (quite apart from the very considerable cost of doing so, and the increase in vehicle traffic/congestion/hazard that would result).

I hope this makes the rationale for the school's current policies clear. We are always willing to listen to suggestions, so please feel free to contact the school if you have any alternative ideas. In the meantime, we would encourage everyone who can to walk to school (the healthiest option), while the drop-off zone can be used if needed by the parents/carers of Y3-6 children in the morning (for dropping-off only – no car should be left here unattended).

Kind regards,

Mr Rose, Headteacher

