

Newlands Girls' School

Courage Commitment Compassion

Headteacher: Miss J. Capon



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Farm Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5JB

7th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that many of you have seen how busy Farm Road and the surrounding area can get at the end of the school day, especially when it is raining.

The most important thing for us is to ensure that our students leave the school safely at 3.10pm. Recently, we have unfortunately seen a large number of parents, carers and other family members creating unsafe conditions in the surrounding area by parking or driving inconsiderately.

The vast majority of our students live within walking distance of the school and we would ideally like fewer parents to drive their children to school. If you do need to drive to collect your child, can you please bear the following guidelines in mind:

- We please request that you aim to park further away from school and agree a location to pick up your child. Almost all children can walk a short distance to meet you which will ensure roads are clear.
- Do ensure your child has suitable clothing in case of rain including a waterproof coat and an umbrella. The surrounding roads are more congested and less safe when it rains however most students will still be able to walk home or to your agreed meeting point further away from school if they are suitably equipped.
- The single yellow lines around the school are no parking areas between 8am and 4pm. Please do not stop, even briefly to let your child out on these lines. This makes the roads congested and unsafe.
- When parking, do not park opposite other parked cars. This narrows the road to a point where cars cannot pass safely. Please find an alternative parking location.
- Please be considerate of our neighbours and do not block their drive way access.
- Please do not park on the pavement. This makes it narrow and unsafe for your children to walk safely and risks an accident.
- Please do not park on or near bends or junctions. Again, this makes the roads congested and unsafe.
- If you cannot find a safe space on a surrounding road, please drive around past the school and continue to circulate.
- If you have managed to find a parking space, please turn your engine off to preserve air quality.
- Likewise, please stay in your car. We or the Police may need to ask you to move if you have parked in an unsafe location.
- Please do support our staff by moving when asked as soon as it is safe to do so.

We have asked for additional support from PCSO Lorraine Holmes as well as the local community/parking wardens. As you will have seen last Thursday after school, we had five police officers patrolling Farm Road at the end of the school day. **Our biggest fear is that if the dangerous and unsafe conditions continue, there will be an accident or injury.**

Thank you for your assistance in following these guidelines, and to all those parents who do not drive their children to school, we really do appreciate this support.

We will also be using assemblies this week to reiterate important messages about road safety, and we are going to trial a 'waiting for friends and family' area on our side of the railings, as opposed to blocking the pavements on the other side of the school fencing.

If the above guidelines are implemented swiftly, it will ensure all our students and staff are able to leave safely at the end of each school day.

Yours sincerely



Miss Jo Capon
Headteacher



Mr Andrew Morbey
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Lesley Allaway
Deputy Headteacher



We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

