

STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

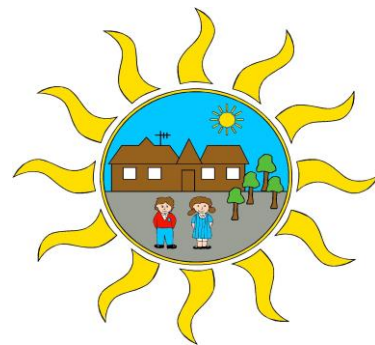
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Headteacher
Mrs Sally Dreckmann

Monday 18th July 2016

Dear Stedham Primary and Stedham Squirrels Parents,

PARKING

I apologise for the bluntness of this communication but to be honest, I would rather I offended some parents with my comments than allow a potentially dangerous situation to occur if I don't say anything, which is what is going to happen.

Periodically I politely ask people to park in School Lane with consideration for both our neighbours and for the school community walking up the road. These requests seem to fall on deaf ears and the situation not only continues but is worsening. In the last month I have lost track of the number of parents and local residents who have complained to me about the quite frankly dangerous parking that is going on in School Lane during drop off and collection times. I wanted to share one such email that I have had with you as it captures the concerns perfectly:

Good morning, I felt compelled to write this morning about the poor parking outside school for this morning's drop off. It has been getting increasingly bad over the last couple of weeks and today was just dangerous. There were cars parked everywhere including on resident's front grass and on the zig zag lines. This made the walk into school a very dangerous place to be as you can see from the pictures I have taken. What is worse is that there were plenty of places to park out of the way and this is often the case, it is pure laziness! I understand that it is not your direct responsibility but I feel something needs to be done before a child gets knocked down.

The email was accompanied by several photographs. While I do not wish to name and shame, an example is shown below of this dangerous parking:



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To clarify:

- You should not park on the yellow zig zag lines.
- No one should be parking or turning in the school drive.
- You must not park on the grass verges of the residents in School Lane or in their drive ways.
- Drive ways and vehicle exits in School Lane should be kept clear at all times. This includes the school driveway. Some Squirrels parents are parking in the driveway to drop off during the school day which stops emergency access and makes it difficult for any deliveries.
- Double parking is inconsiderate and dangerous. Vehicles including the service bus cannot get through such narrow gaps.

It has been suggested by someone that I should stand out in the road on a daily basis and direct the traffic. Aside from the fact that I do not have the time to do this myself or the staff capacity for anyone else to do this either, I have no jurisdiction over the roads. We all rely on one another to show care and respect in the way we park and drive near our school.

A member of our Governing Body has been in contact with the police regarding this matter and we have now been passed over to Chichester District Council who have taken on powers in relation to parking offences. If the situation is not improved in September we will have to pursue this with them.

As a reminder, you do not have to stay with your child when you arrive in the morning; there is a member of staff on duty from 8.50am so you could leave, which frees parking for others. We run the walking bus every morning from the lay-by on the A272. While the use of this has risen significantly this year, there are still many others who could use it to alleviate the parking issue. Although we do not run a walking bus at the end of the day, you could still park in the lay-by and walk through the woods to school.

I really hope that some of you have got to this point in the letter. I can imagine that many have already thrown it in the recycling pile and thought that it doesn't have anything to do with them or that I have no right to say these things. If your child attends Stedham Primary or Squirrels then it is to do with you. Even if you don't drive or you use the walking bus, your child could still be hurt as a result of the inconsiderate actions of others. We **ALL** need to work together to make School Lane a safer place for everyone before an awful and avoidable accident happens.

Please think on this over the summer break and perhaps consider making changes to your routines for the new school year in September.

Yours sincerely

Sally Dreckmann