



L I N G F I E L D

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Partners in Learning
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14th October 2010

School Car Park

Dear Parents,

In recent years, the school community has increased and in particular the staff numbers have increased (we now employ 62 adults). Inevitably what has been known as the parents' car park has become totally inadequate. There are only about 10 car spaces left by the time staff have parked. From time to time there have been fall-outs between parents who have parked selfishly and parents who have kept to the rules, and we have informed you of these. Unfortunately, these unpleasant incidents have increased in the last few months. The practice of parallel parking (even when there are spaces) has been on the increase causing the car park to become gridlocked. I have had a number of letters and complaints about this, including parents who are upset when their cars have been damaged whilst being parked in the school car park. This has included damage to staff cars.

Over the years, we have tried to make the car park work for all concerned. We have had a working party that met regularly to review the situation, we introduced a voluntary one way system and car park rules in the hope everyone would accept and tolerate each other for the benefit of all. Sadly, it has now got to crisis point. What next we ask, a child being injured, or even worse? Action has to be taken for the protection of all, especially our children.

Last night, school Governors met to discuss the car park issues. After lengthy debate and with everything considered, Governors agreed that the car park would become for staff parking only with a drop off zone for parents each morning and it will be closed at the end of the school day.

From Monday 18th October it will no longer be possible for parents to park in the school car park. There will be a marked area on the left hand side, as you enter, for **DROP OFF ONLY**. Parents who attempt to park will be asked to move on by a member of staff. Parents who are abusive will be reported to the police. If there are continued difficulties once the drop off zone has been introduced, then notice will be given that the car park will close altogether to parents.

We appreciate that parents with younger children need to bring them in to school and that parking in the street is difficult. We ask for consideration towards the local residents. Local residents will be advised to contact the police concerning road traffic offences.

Thankfully, there are two other options: The Star Public House car park and the car park in Gun Pit Road (free for 3 hours). Both are just a few minutes walk away from school. There are additional options to consider e.g: reduce your car use and walk, car share or drive part of the route.



www.lingfieldschool.com



These decisions have been encouraged and endorsed by our local police officer PC Paul Clifton who reminded us that most schools have already carried out our intentions and do not have parking for parents on school premises. He has stated that our intentions will ease congestion and benefit the safety of the children.

Yours sincerely,


Ron Gandolfo & Cath Hearnden
Headteacher & Chair of Governors

Lingfield Primary School
CAR PARK RULES
From 18th October 2010

1. NO PARKING FOR PARENTS - STAFF ONLY (staff badge in windscreen / on dashboard)
2. As you enter the car park KEEP LEFT. The drop off zone is on the LEFT marked in yellow and hatched. Pull on to the hatched area. THIS IS A DROP OFF ZONE ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT PARK OR LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE.
3. Use the one way system. Always turn left into the car park and always turn left when leaving the car park.
4. If you are a 'Blue Badge' holder due to a disability, your badge must be on display at all times and you may park in the staff car park next to the school kitchen in the designated, marked area.
5. Speed should be kept to an absolute minimum at all times.
6. Be considerate and polite to other car park users at all times.
7. NEVER put children's lives at risk.

PLEASE NOTE: The Car park gates will be closed at 9.30 a.m.