

Returning to School and Behaviours on Site

Dear Parents, Carers, Child Minders, Families, Local Residents and anyone who visits our school site,

A welcome return from the Spring Half Term Break. I pray that you are all returning safe and well and looking forward to the beginning of Term 4. As we move forward, I hope that there will be changes for the better as we look to put the past 2 years behind us and look firmly ahead to the future and the joys of less restrictions.

I apologise in advance for the length of this letter!

We are looking to return to a more 'normal' set of routines in school and hope that we can have more face to face contact. In school we are looking forward to gathering together for Collective Worship and as staff, meeting face to face for training, CPD and many other reasons.

On Site Expectations.

- We would ask parents/carers to continue to **wear masks while onsite**, even outdoors.
- We will continue with the **one ways system** for drop off and collection
- We will reintroduce the **'drop off' zone (NO waiting!)** in the staff carpark for the mornings – details later in this letter

Usually we aim to regularly inform parents about car parking issues via newsletters. I am taking this opportunity to share recent concerns around car parking and driving on site. Recently, we have had a few near misses, cars riding up on pavements, people being hit by cars manoeuvring, even push chairs having to take evasive action.

This issue is a repeated drain on the school's time, energy and resources and we need to set a positive tone and a good example to all of our children and the wider community. We will all need to work together to solve the situation. If matters do not improve, the school will have to resort to other solutions.

We must be aware that there are other organisations that use the facilities around the school including Kingsnorth Parish Council, Kingsnorth Church, Kingsnorth Little Stars and the Post Office. We must be mindful of how we act in and around school and any further aggressive behaviour and foul language will not be tolerated!

I would like to remind everyone that the driveway and the 'marked' carpark nearest the pavilion is a school 'staff carpark' owned by the school and the carpark next to the village hall is owned by Ashford Borough Council (ABC).

It is a privilege to be able to use both of these facilities and not a 'right'.

We must be thankful to and respectful of, Kingsnorth Parish Council (KPC) and ABC for allowing us use of their carpark during school hours.

As a school we are looking constantly reviewing the situation, but we are ultimately reliant on the people using this space to be co-operative and considerate. This is why we have the 'drop off' area in the mornings with **NO WAITING** – purely for dropping off. This is with an aim to guarantee the safety of everyone concerned.

If you should need to park/stop/wait at school, please use the village hall carpark, use the spaces available on Church Hill or park at Kingsnorth Recreation Centre and walk 4 mins across the field. Always be mindful of pedestrians walking towards the school.

I would strongly urge that people **DO NOT park** in the disabled spaces unless you are a blue badge holder or have a genuine specific need. We have many users of the school who desperately need these spaces and they should be left available for their use. If you are using one of these spaces, please do not stay any longer than is necessary, we do have multiple users of the spaces and we are limited in the number of disabled spaces available.

Also, please **DO NOT park** on any 'double yellow lines' or 'zig-zag' lines on Church Hill or in the car park. Both sets of yellow markings have been installed for the safety of your children and school visitors.

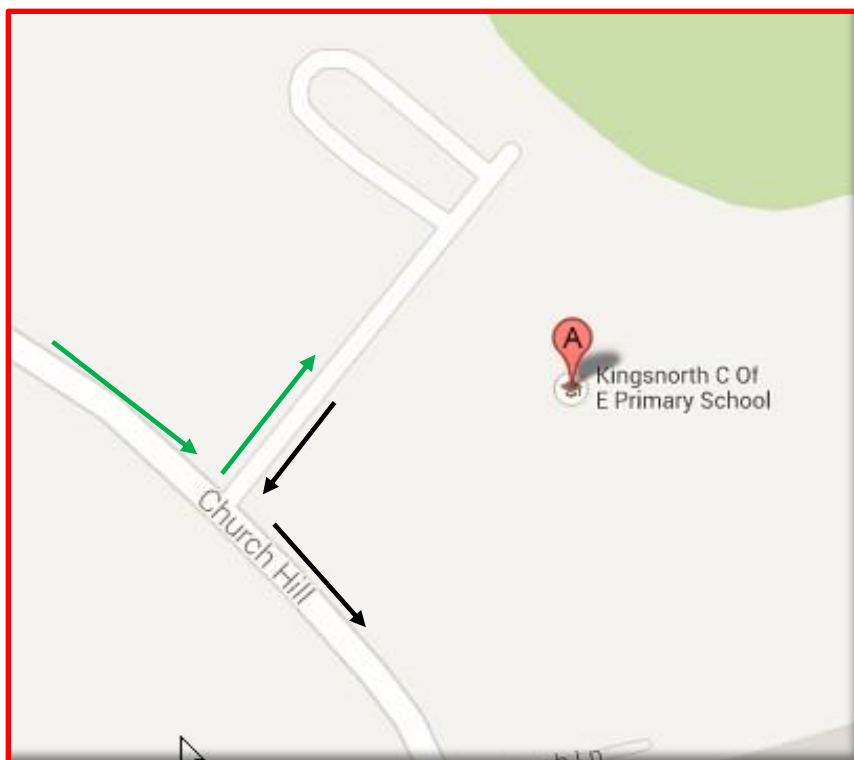
Please **ONLY** use the 'drop-off zone' to drop off!
It is **NOT** a 'waiting area'.

This is not for parking or staying in the car, this is for children to get out of the vehicle quickly, exiting on the side of the pavement, making their way to the supervised gate.

The best and most effective way to solve car parking issues is for as many children and families to walk to school. Thank you so much to those of you that do! Much of our school population live within walking distance and we strongly encourage this, especially during the warmer weather.

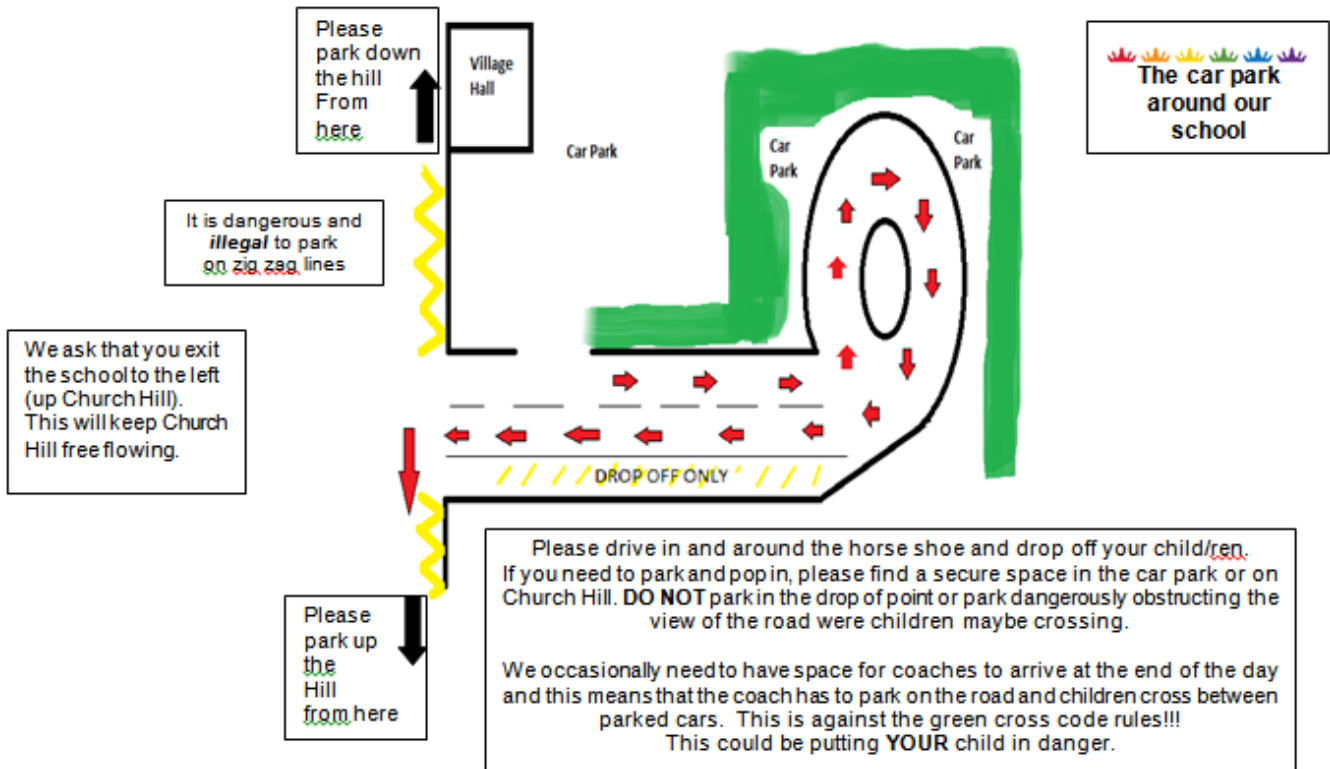
We are only able to resolve these issues with the co-operation of **all** drivers and adults, not just the majority who do follow our guidance.

A further suggestion to ease congestion is to use a one way system on Church Hill. Arrive from the Ashford Road end and exit past the Church.



To try and assist all parents with the journey to and from school in the mornings and at the end of the day, we would suggest following this route with the aim to ease congestion around school and to speed up your journey times!

If cars and vehicles keep the 'drop off zone' clear, then this system works smoothly and much more efficiently than at present!



Finally, please be considerate towards local residents and our neighbours. It is certainly not appropriate or fair to block their houses, driveways or garages. Please help us set a positive tone for our children and to live out our school values.

Remembering our school Christian Values and the Christian Ethos of our school, we must be more considerate and compassionate to others. Please support the school in setting these positive behaviours for our children.

We thank you in advance for your support and assistance in this matter.

Yours hopefully,

Mr I Witts
Executive Headteacher