



Friday 22 September 2023

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 to school after the summer break. I apologise in advance for the length of 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, vehicles speeding on site, 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. We are working with the school Governing body and 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 at 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.

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

The drop off zone 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.



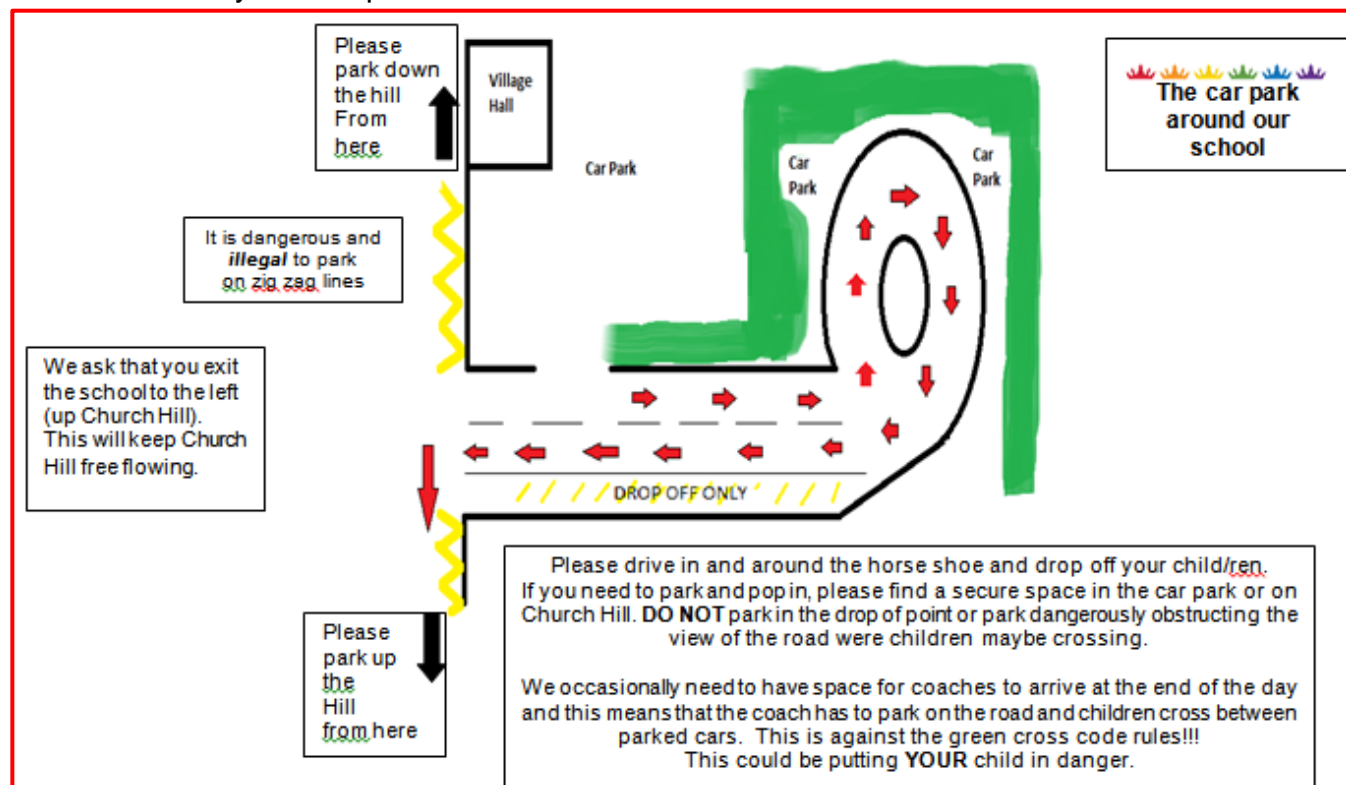
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Headteacher: Mr Iain Witts

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



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.

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.



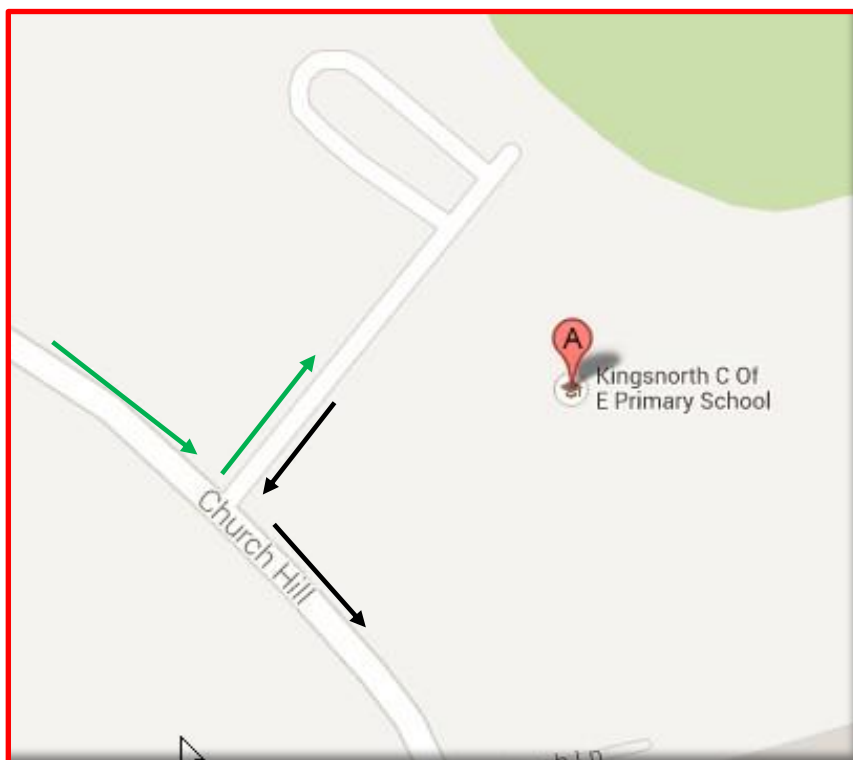
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A further suggestion to ease congestion is to use a one-way system on Church Hill. Arrive from the Ashford Road end and exit past the Church.



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!

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.

Our staff should never have to face aggression and abusive behaviour. This will not be tolerated and access to the school site may be denied if this continues.

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

Yours hopefully,

Mr I Witts and the Kingsnorth Primary School Governors



The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust

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