

# King Athelstan Primary School

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Dear Families,

## Safety on and around our school site

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our pupils, we would like to remind everyone about the importance of safe parking and appropriate behaviour around the school grounds. **Please share this information with everyone who supports you with school drop offs and collections.**

Each day, we witness the busy drop-off and pick-up times outside the school, and we understand the challenges that come with finding a suitable parking space. However, we ask that all parents and carers be particularly mindful of where they park and how they behave to ensure the safety of our children and reduce congestion around the school.

## **Please take note of the following key reminders:**

- **Do not park on double yellow lines.** These lines are in place to ensure clear sightlines for both pedestrians and drivers, especially in areas where children cross the road, such as the corner of Dawson Road. Parking here can block the view for both drivers and pedestrians, making it dangerous for children who are walking to and from school.
- **Use the zebra crossing to cross the road.** We strongly encourage all children and adults to cross the road only at the designated zebra crossings. Crossing the road in the middle of Villiers Road, especially during peak times, puts everyone at unnecessary risk. It also gives young children the message that it is ok to just walk across the road rather than using the designated crossing. As they get older, they will then do this without you there to support them.
- **Be mindful of pedestrian areas.** Please avoid stopping in areas where children may be walking, and ensure that your vehicle does not obstruct any pedestrian pathways.
- **Wait outside the school gate until it's time to enter.** We kindly remind everyone that parents and carers must wait outside the school gate during drop-off and collection times until it is the allocated time to bring in or collect your child. Congestion at the gate and in the area at the front of the school around the notice boards slows down the process for everyone and increases the risk of accidents, particular when children are running around or being unsafe. When this area is busy with families who have entered the grounds early, it makes it hard for each group of children who arrive to get to and from the bike shelters and access the office, as well as get to their gate at the correct time. It is also difficult to for staff to monitor who has arrived and to get children in safely.



- **Line up in single file and be considerate of others.** Please ensure that you are lined up in a single file and avoid blocking the pavement or the school gate. This will allow others to pass through easily and help maintain a safe flow of foot traffic.
- **Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on duty will call people in when it's time to enter the site.** Please wait until instructed to do so.
- **Never enter the school through the car park.** For everyone's safety, please do not enter the school site through the car park. The car park is exit-only for pedestrians during drop-off and collection times. Please ensure you use the designated main pedestrian entrance. It is time consuming and frustrating for staff to have to continually police this area due to those collecting breaking the school rules.
- **Be aware of children's safety when parking and driving.** There have been a number of incidents where children have been almost knocked over by cars reversing or making U-turns, particularly at the corner of Dawson Road and in the middle of Villiers Road right outside the school. These near-miss situations are extremely concerning, and we ask that all drivers be extra cautious and responsible. Please ensure you park and drive safely at all times to avoid any accidents.

We understand that mornings can be hectic, but by making these small adjustments, we can significantly improve safety and ease congestion for everyone at school. Together, we can create a safer environment for our children to thrive in.

For your information, we have raised concerns with the council regarding the lack of crossing patrol at drop off and collection times, however, we are yet to receive a response.

Thank you for your cooperation, support and understanding. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Newton

Headteacher