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(JD/KL)



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Dear Parent/Carer

National Road Safety Week

As you may be aware this week is **National Road Safety Week** and to mark this there will be a number of activities to highlight the importance of our young people being safe road users. I would appreciate it if you could support the school by reinforcing the message - no matter how old your children - that roads are dangerous things that need to be treated with care.

- **Safe road use as pedestrians**

In assemblies we will be speaking to pupils about the importance of taking care when they are on foot on their way to school or at other points in the school day. Sometimes our young people take far too little care in straying off the pavement both around the school and in town. As pupils need to cross a number of busy roads, we will be reinforcing to them the challenge that such a carefree attitude can represent to drivers.

- **Safe parking by parents/carers**

I would also take this opportunity to urge parents not to double park in the school bus bays at nursery or school drop off and collection time. I realise that for reasons of convenience parents may be tempted to do this, but parking in this way can present a very real hazard, particularly as the nights get darker. Such double parking forces both buses and cars to drive very close to parked buses and so increases the risk they present to young people crossing the road to get to the adjacent car park.



- **Safe use of school transport**

We will also be speaking to pupils about safe use of school transport. A recent accident involving one of our pupils alighting from a school bus has brought home to our whole school community the potential hazard that roads represent. For those parents/carers whose children travel by school bus, I would remind you that you have a responsibility for your child until they get on and after they get off the bus. For younger children, parents would therefore be expected to bring/meet their child to support them in safely crossing any roads. In cases where parents deem their child competent to cross roads unaccompanied, I would urge them to remind their children that when alighting from a bus they should wait until the bus has departed and is well out of sight before crossing any road, so that it is possible to have a clear view. I have attached the most recent Education Transport *Travelling to School* booklet which provides information for parents/carers regarding school transport.

- **Safe behaviour on buses**

It is also important the young people conduct themselves appropriately when travelling on school buses. As well as impacting on other pupils and the reputation of the school, poor behaviour on buses can also represent a serious safety hazard should it distract the driver. I have been trying very hard to encourage bus companies to let the school know if they are experiencing any such problems, but I would also urge parents to contact the school if they are made aware of poor behaviour on buses.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher