



G O L D S B O R O U G H C . E . P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

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Friday 12th January 2017

Pupil Safety Outside of School at Pick up and Drop Off Times

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to communications in weekly newsletters over recent terms, I wish to bring to your attention the increasing number of concerns raised by Goldsborough village residents relating to pupils' movements on or near to roads in the village, particularly at drop off and pick up times.

Residents have reported their concerns to the school and to the Parish Council which include near misses following children running into or walking into the road without due care and attention, playing on or close to the road or the grass verges and leaving cars onto the road rather than onto the path at drop off times. The Parish Council, following liaison with the local officer, have now been advised to report near misses and concerns over children's safety on or near the roads to North Yorkshire Police via their 101 number.

We realise that the roads in and around Goldsborough village are quieter than those in Knaresborough, Harrogate and the larger cities of York and Leeds, however, the danger of a child being severely injured or worse by not paying appropriate attention to vehicle movements in the village remains clear. As a school, we are focusing a programme of assemblies and follow up classroom learning on road safety and the Green Cross Code. As part of this learning, we will reinforce the following messages:

- All pupils should not leave the playground unless their adult is with them at the end of the school day (except those in Y5/6 with written permission to walk home).
- All pupils should ensure that they remain close to their adult and follow their instructions carefully when crossing the road (younger pupils) or follow the Green Cross Code carefully if crossing the road independently (older pupils Y4 and upwards who cross roads independently with their parent/carer's permission).



Main Street, Goldsborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 8NJ. Web: goldsboroughprimary.co.uk Twitter: @GoldsboroughCE

Inspiration

Respect

Teamwork

Perseverance

Happiness

We ask that parents and carers ensure that their child/ren remain close to them when walking from the car to school and do not cross the road to enter the school grounds unless closely supervised. Older pupils with permission to walk to school on their own should ensure that they are confident at looking/listening out for dangers when crossing the road and that they choose an appropriately safe (rather than the quickest or most convenient) place to cross.

Following discussion at our most recent governing board meeting, the possibility of creating a one entrance system into and out of school to reduce the risk of accidents has been discussed. This would lead to two out of the three entrances to the school grounds being locked at drop off and pick up times and only the cricket club/playground entrance remaining in use. This would mean that all parents/carers and pupils would enter and leave the school grounds via one entrance/exit at the point in the village where visibility is the most clear at busy times for both pedestrians and vehicle users. Before we make this decision, which would be taken in liaison with North Yorkshire Police, we ask parents/carers to observe the following, which we believe will reduce the risk of injury on the roads in and around Goldsborough village:

1. All children in Class 1 and 2 should walk to and from their vehicles with their parent/carer and not run off/play on the journey to and from the car. This applies to older children who arrive at school with a parent/carer.
2. Where older children walk independently, either from home or from their car to increase independence, they should be encouraged to walk at all times and be aware of the movement of vehicles around them. This includes into/out of cul-de-sacs, driveways and car parks.
3. All children, except those with permission to walk home alone, must not leave the school playground until their parent/carer/adult picking them up is with them. Under no circumstances should a child leave the school gates without their parent/carer/adult picking up.

We ask all families to support the above initiatives which we believe will improve children's safety and reduce the risk of them being involved in an accident on or near the road. I shall provide an update early in the second half of the spring term (mid to late February) following school's input in lessons and our monitoring of road safety in and around the village close to school.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Shillito
Headteacher

Guy Cooper
Chair of Governors