



'We can and we will'

GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Parking around the school

I hope that you all had a restful summer holidays and the children have enjoyed their first couple of days back at school.

As I am sure you are aware the local authority will be introducing a parking management scheme, around the school. You will no doubt have seen the yellow lines and painted bays being put in place. The scheme itself starts on Monday 19th September. The restricted hours will be from 9am until 5pm. It will mean that there are very few areas near the school that are not affected. While this should not be a problem in the morning it will provide a huge challenge in terms of picking up children in the afternoons. The school has opposed the scheme but, despite our and your protests, the council are determined that it will happen and I think that we have to now accept this.

On an optimistic note the council have responded in a positive way to the petition that was submitted and will now consider issuing permits for parents. In order to clarify how this will operate I have spoken to the council today. A few parents have approached me with conflicting versions of this. However, from the conversation I had this morning, this is the definitive version of how the process will work.

1. The scheme will start on the 19th September and for those roads included in the scheme restrictions will apply
2. Within the first couple of weeks the council will undertake a survey, not of the scheme as such, but the likely capacity of spare parking places
3. A report will then be produced and be put forward to the relevant officers and councillors at the local authority
4. If agreed then there may have to be a further consultation with local residents as issuing permits to parents will necessitate a change in the wording of the parking scheme
5. The outcomes of the consultation will again be put forward to the relevant members of the council including ward councillors
6. Following this the council cabinet members will make the decision to approve (or not) this change

At this point permits will be issued to parents. Whether the number of permits issued will be restricted in number will depend on the outcome of their findings. The permits will be issued by the council but the school will need to endorse the application form to prove that you are a parent at the school. If there are limited numbers of permits available then we will have to decide how they are allocated but let's wait until we need to make a decision on this.

I hope the explanation is clear and gives you an idea of how the process will work. The council were not able to give a time frame for this process but I am sure you can see that it won't happen overnight. I understand that



there has been fierce debate about this matter not least on a Facebook page. I do hope that when the 19th September comes it turns out to be not as bad as we all thought! I understand that Austin's Lane, Sussex Road and Tavistock Road are not currently part of the scheme. I hope that many of you will be able to organise parking on friend's driveways. I do ask that we avoid the temptation of parking on driveways without permission as this will not help our cause with local residents if they are consulted on the issue of parent permits.

I have heard that some parents intend to be deliberately late collecting their children from school. I would ask that you avoid this and endeavour to be on time. Obviously we will always keep the children until they are collected safely and we do understand that, particularly in the initial days of the scheme, a prompt pick may be a challenge. Greatly delayed pick-ups will only penalise the teachers (not the council) and stop them from getting on with their marking or preparation for the next day of lessons.

Whatever happens from the 19th September I ask that everyone, regardless of the challenge, ensures that all of the children are kept safe. If you are going to having a meeting point to collect older children then make sure they are really clear on where it is and what to do if you're not there. Please don't stop on the zig zag lines to collect children. As well as being dangerous there are now council cameras in place to catch those doing so. We do have a bike rack (and we can find extra storage if necessary) if you wanted to cycle in.

Thank you to the parents who have offered their driveways to help with staff parking (particularly at lunchtime with the SMSAs). We are still a few short so if you were able to offer your driveway between 11.30am and 1.30pm then this would be much appreciated.

I am truly sorry that everyone is having to suffer this additional stress. However, I'm sure that we will be able to deal with all of the challenges that will be presented in the coming weeks and months

Yours sincerely

NJ Alford
Headteacher

