

Richmond Park Community Primary School
Priory Street
Carmarthen
Carmarthenshire
SA31 1NB



Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Parc Waundew
Heol y Prior
Caerfyrddin
Sir Gâr
SA31 1NB



= Richmond Park
School, Carmarthen

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Miss Helen Davies
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@RichmondParkCPS
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9th May 2019

RE: Parking in the school car park

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to recent polite requests in newsletters and via text messages, I feel it is necessary to write to parents again about the dangerous parking and driving in the staff car park.

This morning, we had parents and family members parked in the staff car park, both obstructing the access route to our breakfast club and causing congestion in the car park. Furthermore, a couple of cars also almost collided when reversing. Had there been a child, parent or staff member behind the cars at that time, it would have undoubtedly resulted in a serious accident/injury, or possibly worse. I even witnessed a minor collision between two cars belonging to parents in our staff car park prior to the Easter holidays. Again, this could have potentially resulted in a serious accident as this occurred near the main path which the children, staff and parents use to access the breakfast club.

Therefore, I've taken the decision to close the staff car park to all parents at all points during the day, including during breakfast club times in the morning. This car park is allocated to the staff of the school, of which there are only just enough spaces to accommodate their cars. Only parents who have already got consent from the school and who require special access (e.g. wheelchair access for their children) will be allowed to park here. This will also apply to parents parking during the day to drop off or collect their children from Nursery or Flying Start. This is because the car park is still in regular use with children walking to town, visitors coming in and out of the school, staff going for lunch, etc. We have also decided on this action following consultation with Carmarthenshire health and safety team, who encourage all parents and children to use the allocated paths to access school.

I appreciate that this may be inconvenient, particularly for those parents who have regularly used the car park responsibly and with consideration, however I hope you can appreciate that the **safety of your children, as well as staff, parents and visitors** to the school is my priority. It is only a matter of time until someone gets seriously hurt if this action isn't taken.

I know that pick up and drop off times are difficult and very busy, however we have a very convenient council car park only a few short steps away from the school where parents should be parking. **We have an arrangement with the council which allows parents to park in the council car park for free during pick-up and drop off times**, therefore you will not need to pay for a ticket.



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Now that the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and the weather is getting warmer, to ease this problem I would also encourage parents and pupils to use more sustainable modes of travel to get to school where this is possible. I do understand that parents or carers will sometimes need to drive their children to school, however I would urge where possible for parents to park away from the school and then walk in.

What can parents do to help?

There are a number of ways you can help us with this matter:

- Those living nearby can avoid the cost and inconvenience to themselves and others by walking children to and from school.
- Parents can consider lift sharing with friends and/or neighbours.
- Using the parking spaces in the council car park would relieve pressure on areas closer to school entrance points.
- Allow yourself more time to find safe, considerate parking.

Please could you think of the safety of ALL our children and refrain from parking in the staff car park from here onwards. Our caretaker will be on duty at the gates in the mornings and only parents who have received consent will be allowed access. I know that the vast majority of you always park appropriately and with consideration for others and probably find this regular communication about this issue both bewildering and frustrating.

Thank you in advance for your support in this important issue and let's hope together we can ensure the safety of the children. Your help and efforts to resolve this issue is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Mr D Cooper
(Acting Headteacher)

