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Headteacher: Mr. C. Gibson

21st April 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the final term of the school year. I hope that you managed to have an enjoyable Easter break.

Marilyn

So many of you have been asking after our fantastic school crossing patrol warden, Marilyn. Firstly, I would like to pass on her thanks for all of the cards and good wishes she has been sent from so many of you. Currently, she is still in hospital and will be for the next week or two. However, she is making steady progress and we will continue to keep you updated.

KS2 Easter Service

It was fabulous to see so many of you at the service earlier this week. As always, the children were fantastic and once again, we would like to thank St Nicholas' Church for allowing us to enjoy this opportunity.

Twitter

For some time now, we have had a Twitter account but have rarely used it. This is about to change! For general reminders, we will now also start sending messages via Twitter but in order to receive them, you need to request to follow us (@belmontprimary). We will then look at these requests and, if we recognise the user, they will be accepted. However, if the username requesting to follow does not easily identify the person, it is unlikely we will accept them. If your request is not accepted, please contact the school office and this can be very easily rectified!

Phonics Meeting

Parents and carers of children in N2, Reception and Year One will have received a letter and reminder about the meeting being held this coming Wednesday 26th April at 4pm in the KS2 hall. We look forward to seeing you!

Parking

It has been a while since this was a subject in the newsletter but a few issues have arisen recently which I feel dutybound to share.

Firstly, as always, I acknowledge that parking around school is challenging at the best of times. However, it is disappointing to hear reports of discourtesy from some members of our school community who have allegedly parked across the driveway of local residents thus preventing them from driving to go about their daily affairs. What I find especially difficult to believe is the suggestion that the owners of the 'offending vehicles' have then taken to verbally abusing our local residents and, if this is the case, I am sure you will join me in my view that this is unacceptable and inexcusable.

The regulations governing single yellow lines are, to a point, ambiguous. They do prohibit waiting during the controlled times (between 8.30 and 9.30am and 2.45 and 3.45pm, Monday to Friday) although it is suggested that dropping off is permitted. However, logic would suggest that dropping off would take place away from the school access points as this is where people (most notably children) are likely to cross and cars 'dropping off' inevitably impair visibility for those wishing to get across the road.

The restrictions in the lay-by where there a 'zig-zag' line is painted are much clearer. Stopping of any description is not permitted between 8.30am and 5.30pm. I am sure you will have noticed that because of this being contravened, I have taken to standing away from the gate and in the lay-by from time to time to share this information with those who are unaware.

Some time ago, Mr Magor, our site supervisor, and I felt it would be a pleasant welcome for our school community if we could 'meet and greet' at the gates and we certainly enjoy doing this. We did not envisage that we would also be required to unofficially become a form of parking warden (as well as crossing patrol out the front of the school) which detracts from our intended purpose, that being to 'meet and greet' members of our school community entering the premises or saying goodbye at the end of the day. Further, in carrying out these 'unofficial duties', I too have been the recipient of verbal abuse by members of our own school community who have shown disapproval of reminders I have given about parking.

My overriding concern is the safety of the children who attend our school. It is not an exaggeration to say that every day I witness an avoidable occurrence which endangers the well-being of somebody, be it a child, parent, carer or other member of our community.

Unfortunately, I do not have perfect solutions for the problems identified and, to reiterate, I fully appreciate the challenges faced in relation to parking / dropping off. However, all I can do is simply ask that we are mindful and considerate of one another.

Road Safety Training

Purely coincidentally, next Friday 28th April, children in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two will be receiving a visit from representatives of Cleveland Fire Service who will be providing some road safety training for them all at an age appropriate level.

School Closures

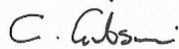
Just a reminder that we are closed Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday), Monday 8th May (Bank Holiday to commemorate the coronation) and Thursday 4th May (local elections). Remember that Year Six will be asked to attend on the morning of 4th May. A letter has been sent to explain this.

And Finally...

Let's hope that the Summer Term lives up to its name and provides us with the weather we would like to fully embrace the possibilities available during this time of the year.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours Sincerely,



Mr C Gibson