

# BEECHES

# GREEN PAGES

Issue 4

1st October 2021

## ROAD ACCIDENT

You will all be aware of the terrible accident that happened on Sandy Lane on Tuesday, in which a gentleman was seriously injured. Many people have expressed concern and asked about the condition of the gentleman. He has serious injuries and is continuing to be treated in hospital. It has been very touching that many of you have asked if the staff involved in the aftermath are okay. Thank you for caring. We were also moved that some people suggested having a collection for the gentleman and his family. We will explore that further in due course. We are aware that some of you witnessed the accident and many walked past the scene afterwards, including some of our children. Some of you were involved in helping the gentleman, including people who administered first aid, some who moved people back and others who kept traffic away. Meanwhile, some of you recognised that there was nothing you could add to the efforts and you kept away. In all these cases, you did the right thing - thank you. In these circumstances, it is best to be honest with the children, to go about our business as usual and to offer support to those who need it. With that in mind, we held assemblies on Wednesday morning to make sure our children knew the facts and didn't listen to rumours, and we invited them to let us know if they were upset and needed to talk to someone.

Regardless of the circumstances of this accident, this needs to be a learning moment for our community. Many times over the years, we have appealed for parents and carers to act responsibly when dropping or collecting our children at the start and end of the day. Sometimes, things will improve for a week or so, but the improvement is never sustained. We have had the police here but their resources

## ROAD ACCIDENT (Continued)

are stretched and they are not able to be here as often as we would like. Following this terrible accident, we are working with the other schools on site to see what we can do to address the traffic and parking issues around school. But there is no magic wand, and no pot of money waiting for us to claim in order to put extra things in place, so this really does come down to you.

Is it okay with you that, from time to time, accidents like the one we saw on Tuesday will happen? Do we accept that next time, it might be one of our children who is the victim? If not, things need to change. Here's what you can do:

- Leave your car at home. Most families live within a mile of the school. Walking to school each day will mean that you are doing your bit to keep people safe around the site and it will have the added health benefits that walking twice a day will bring to you and your child. This is a mindset change for many, and a big challenge, but if you won't do it now... what will it take?
- Get up and leave the house a little earlier in the morning so that whatever your arrangements for getting your child to school are, you aren't rushed.
- Set out in plenty of time to be here to collect your child at the end of the day.
- If you do need to bring your car, park away from the school and walk up. This will be easier if you do allow yourself plenty of time.
- Get out of the "stop, drop and go" habit. It is illegal to park on zig-zag lines in any case, and quite apart from the safety element, it's not the calmest way to send your child into school.
- Model safe road crossing at all times. This is particularly pertinent at the crossing on Beeches Road, where many, many parents cut the corner and don't cross at the crossing. In one or two or five years, or however long it will be, you will allow your child to walk out and about unsupervised. When you do, they will follow the habits you have taught them. Please make them good habits. If that adds a minute or two to your walking time, it is a price worth paying.

## ROAD ACCIDENT (Continued)

We know that many parents and carers do all or most of these things and we are grateful. This message is not intended to patronise those of you who know and understand all this. This is a wake-up call to anyone who has developed any bad habits.

For those of us who are on the same page, it is time to work together to ensure things change. We do not want to see confrontations outside school - apart from anything else, that would be distressing and a poor example to set for our children. But if there are people putting our children at risk, we do need to take action. Therefore, we would advise you to report any examples of poor driving and parking to the police. Perhaps that way the message will get through. Thank you everyone.

## DIARY DATES

Mon 4 Oct	<i>Harvest collection ends</i>
Thu 7 Oct	<i>Professor McGinty visiting Year 5</i>
Tue 19 Oct & Wed 20 Oct	<i>Parents' Evenings</i>
Mon 25 Oct - Fri 29 Oct	<i>Half Term - School Closed</i>
Mon 8 Nov	<i>Year 5 Diwali assembly</i>
Tue 9 Nov	<i>Photographer in school</i>

## BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Year 3: Humaira (3SP)	Year 4: Charlotte (4AP)
Year 5: Asad (5CL)	Year 6: Tayyiba (6KA)

## TEAM POINTS THIS WEEK

1	Team Cadbury (Red)	824
2	Team Zephaniah (Green)	796
3	Team Lewis (Blue)	687
4	Team Malala (Yellow)	576

## PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3AL: Jessica	4AP: Yaashvi	5CL: Alicia	6IS: Logan
3AP: Raem	4KP: Cameron	5CS: Abdul	6KA: Tianna
3SP: Adam	4RW: Jahmari	5SM: Abbie	6LA: Cerys

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