



Important letter regarding the Church car park

4th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the School has undertaken work this year to further improve the safety of our children on their journeys to and from School.

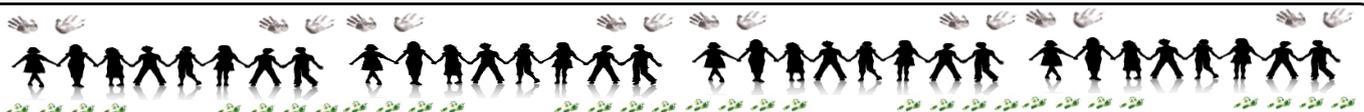
Many of you contributed to a school travel survey before Christmas and the results were incorporated into a new School Travel Plan written by Mark Hankin, one of our parent governors. Mark has extensive experience in this area working as a Highways Engineer for Cumbria Highways. (The Plan can be viewed on our website.)

At the same time, the Parish conducted a full risk assessment of the use of the car park at drop-off/pick-up times which as well as highlighting some dangerous driving practices, also highlighted the extent to which the car park is used by pedestrians.

The use of the Church car park has been a major cause for concern for School and Parish for a number of years now. Parents too have raised concerns. As a School and Parish, we have now reached what we feel is the only safe and sensible conclusion: **from September, the Church car park will no longer be used to drop off or pick up children either by car or on foot.** There have been near misses over the years and we are sure you will wholly support this decision to avoid any harm coming to any of our children.

School will no longer be accessed through the side pedestrian gate at drop-off and pick-up times. Instead, there will be a single entry and exit through the gate onto Coach Road. This increases the security of the site at these key times of the day and ensures that the Crossing Patrol (which we are very fortunate to have) is used to full potential.

This new arrangement will involve some of you adjusting your routines from September. We hope you feel, like us, that this effort will be well worth it to ensure the continued safety of all of our children.



Walking hand in hand in the footsteps of Christ. We are His hands; we are His feet.



St. Begh's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Our Children Protection Policy is available to view on our website.

We have some suggestions:

1. Using the car parking spaces along Station Road. There is often availability here due to the 1 hour time limit and is in easy walking distance.
2. Using local car-parks as a 'Park and Stride'. We are fortunate to have retail car parks at both ends of Coach Road.
3. Using our 'Walking Bus' from the Catherine Street car park (at the bottom of the Morrisons car park opposite the Council Offices). We will be trialling this before the end of term. Parents and carers can drop off here and staff members will walk pupils to and from School. Full details before the end of term.

We are hoping that this new routine will have other benefits too. Our monitoring during times when the car park has been closed showed that traffic flowed more smoothly along Coach Road, which eases journeys for other road users too. Furthermore, in these times where we are all encouraged to increase our physical activity, it may be an opportunity to invest a few minutes every day into walking or travelling to school in other fun ways (e.g. cycling/scootering). We are happy to invest in proper storage for bikes and scooters if necessary.

Finally, this is a decision which hasn't been taken lightly and has been given much thought and discussion. As part of the process, we have liaised with Cumbria Highways and the Police who both endorse the decision for its focus on child safety. We are looking forward to working together with all families to make his enhancement to our School and Parish life a success.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Catherine Mallard
(Headteacher)

Fr. Cenydd Marrison
(Parish Priest)