



St Mary's Farnham Royal Church of England Primary School

We aspire to grow as a community through FAITH as a FAMILY.
Thriving for all our FUTURES enabling us to FLOURISH

Tuesday 9th September 2024

Dear Parents

We have always appreciated just how tricky it can be for all of us to drive into and out of Church Road, park and drive safely being aware of pedestrians and the rights of local residents. It requires us all to **work together safely, respectfully and collaboratively**.

Again however, it has been noted and shared by a variety of members of the local community that some key incidents where members of our school community have not been acting in a safe, respectful or collaborative way, towards other parents, towards members of staff or towards local residents. To make this worse, these incidents are always happening in front of the children! We have only returned to school for a few days and incidents and issues have already occurred. An ambulance could not get through the traffic today and a pre-school child was nearly hit by a car turning around in the road while they reversed and covered the pavement!

As role models to our children, it is vitally important that we model road safety to our children. While we do appreciate that the pavements are small and can be crowded at times, there are several parents that will walk with their children in the road - which not only models to the children poor road safety but also puts them at risk and increases the difficulty for drivers using the road too.

So, on behalf of all in community but particularly the children, please can we all:

- **Only drive into Church Road if completely necessary** – there is parking available at the Duke's Head, the village hall and in other roads nearby.
- **Drive cautiously, courteously** and with the clear message in mind that we are all trying to achieve the same goal of safely dropping off and collecting our children from school.
- **Park appropriately** allowing space for vehicles to get through. **Do not park or turn round on the school zig-zag lines as these mark key safety areas.**
- **Do not turn around in the road** as it is not wide enough and cars often cover the pavements when doing this, risking the safety of pedestrians and our children.
- **Do not park across the drive-ways or gates of houses** belonging to local residents, even if it is just for a few minutes while we collect.
Do not park on the corner of St Mary's Close: there are signs up to show this.
- **Do not speak rudely to, intimidate or threaten other road users**, pedestrians or local residents. This is completely unacceptable and incidents will be followed up and reported to authorities if necessary.
- **Do not go onto any resident's property**, garden or driveway without their permission.
- As pedestrians, use the pathways appropriately and cross the road in a safe and controlled manner.
- **Please keep your litter with you** and dispose of it in the correct place. (not residents bins)

Model good road safety, kindness and manners to the children – they are most important of all!

Mr Shane Broderick – Headteacher
Mr James Farmer - Deputy Headteacher
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We have also had a number of members of our school community very concerned that they have seen some adults putting the lives of children at risk by placing them on electric scooters, bikes, motorbikes etc when bringing them to/from school. They have even seen parents doing this on the very busy Farnham Road! This is both dangerous and illegal and it is our duty of care to share our concerns with you. **Please do not place children at risk by doing this.** Riders of electric scooters are also putting pedestrians and children at risk as they are riding along pavements at quite a speed. If this continues we will have no other choice than to report the adults involved in these incidents.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

As with everything we do at SMFR we always have the best interests for the children at the centre of everything. We know that the road and road use does present us all with challenges but please remember that this is our duty as responsible adults and we must do all we can to help keep everyone safe.

Thank you

Mr J Farmer
Deputy Head Teacher

Electric Scooters

It is currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement. We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

Current law
You can buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on a private land.

Why is this?
E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Tax
- Insurance

As e-scooters do not have numberplates, signalling ability and do not always have visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

What happens if I'm stopped by the Police
The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take it home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

E-scooter trials
The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads. Enquire with your local authority for a trial closest to you.

Further information
Further details can be found on the following government website:
Powered transporters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Stopping on the zig-zags is **Selfish and Dangerous**

School Keep Clear
No Stopping, No Excuses

School Keep Clear
DON'T STOP HERE

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

**BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS
YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE**

SPONSORED BY



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