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Dear Parent/Guardians,

I am unfortunately having to write to you all again about the dangerous and inconsiderate parking around school. I know pick up and drop off times are difficult and very busy due to large amounts of children on both our sites, however a small minority of parents from both schools are still parking without any thought for our local residents. This week alone I have taken three calls from very unhappy residents about cars being parked across their drives, on the double yellow line, on the zigzag lines and unbelievably parents still parking their cars on the mini roundabout, this is obviously both dangerous and illegal. This parking can pose a safety risk to pupils and parents that do walk and cycle to school, as well as to other road users. In addition the concerns over unsafe parking can be a major barrier to increasing levels of walking and cycling to school. I have also witnessed several parents dropping off children in the middle of the road without actually parking which I am sure you will all agree is extremely dangerous and an accident ready to happen!

Bedford Borough Council will continue to use the Camera Car to monitor parking. Use of the camera car will enable more efficient and effective enforcement of the parking restrictions outside of school. The Camera Car uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to detect offences for review by Civil Enforcement Officers prior to a Penalty Charge Notice being issued through the post.

I do understand that parents or carers will sometimes need to drive their children to school, however I would urge where possible for parents/guardians to park away from the school and then walk in. Please could you think of the safety of ALL our children and refrain from parking across resident's driveways as this is an offence which could also result in a Penalty Charge Notice.

In your child's book bag tonight you be receiving a copy of a leaflet from Bedford Borough Council on "Safer Parking at the School Gate"

On a separate issue, I received an email yesterday from another resident regarding a dog being tied up on their fence whilst the child was been taken into school. Later when the resident went out, there was a plastic package of dog faeces dumped on the border between their house and the pavement. Again I am sure you will all agree this is totally unacceptable and also a potential serious health hazard to your children. Please could I ask you NOT to tie your dogs to our local resident's fences or bring them onto the school grounds.

Thank you in advance for you support in these important issues and let's hope together we can ensure the safety of the children and be more considerate to our local residents.

Yours sincerely

Helen Ward  
Head Teacher

