



**Headteacher: Mrs Sara Boyce**

Steeple Claydon School and Nursery,  
Meadoway, Steeple Claydon, Bucks. MK18 2PA

email: [office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk)

Website: [www.steepleclaydonschool.com](http://www.steepleclaydonschool.com)

Tele: **01296 738132**

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Dear Parents/Carers

### Parking Outside School Gates and Child Safety Outside School Gates

As you know, the safety of children is of paramount concern to us here at school and I also know that this a view shared by you as parents, especially as parking outside the school has been an issue that I have been made aware of before and indeed have written to parents about before on several occasions.

Despite these efforts, before half term, we had a serious near accident just outside the gates of our school, involving one of our younger children. In light of this, we have increased our measures to increase child safety by putting out cones at the end of the cul-de-sac outside school and adding an extra member of staff to help with keeping the area as clear and as safe as possible.

These measures have overall been welcomed with support from parents and residents. There are just some points that I would like to clarify and update you on and also issue some reminders both for parents who drive and for those who are pedestrians.

- As a school, we are only responsible for the safety of children once inside the school gates from 8:40am up to 3:20pm. Therefore, we would like to remind parents/carers and children of the need to stay on the path in the cul-de-sac, to take small children by the hand and to take extra care when crossing the road. There are still residents who will need to access their properties so there could still be cars moving around.
- With regard to parking, our position is that we strongly discourage parents from parking in the cul-de-sac. The school taxi and blue badge holders do need closer access to school and so we will accommodate these needs, which is why there is an extra member of staff on hand to support.
- As a school however, we cannot legally enforce parking controls directly outside of school. Therefore the coning off of the cul-de-sac is a preventative measure that relies on parental goodwill to park somewhere further away from school at these busy times and we are hopeful that parents will respect this measure.
- We have raised the matter of parking directly outside the school with the local authorities and I do know that they are meeting to discuss what legal enforcement they can put in place as a longer term solution.

To conclude, any additional voluntary measures we have put outside of school are as a direct result of wanting to help keep the children safe. We are not trying to inconvenience families getting children into school yet we are trying to find a working compromise that prevents accidents from occurring. This indeed is not just a school issue, yet one for the whole community to support and address.

I will update you further once I have any updates from the council on further action to be taken.

Thank you for your continued support on this matter.

Kind regards

Sara Boyce  
Headteacher

