



Children are at the centre of everything we do

Wednesday 7 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Walking to/from school and Mobile Phones – Year 5 and Year 6

Walking to/from school - Year 5

Pre Covid, Year 4 children would have completed their 'Pedestrian Skills' training at school during the summer term. Whilst our priorities have always been your child's well being and academic progress this is particularly the case following the disruption of the pandemic. As such, I am sorry to have to advise you that I am unable to release staff to support your child with pedestrian skills training this year.

In previous years the 'Pedestrian Skills' training has covered:

- hazards due to car parks and driveways;
- finding a safe place to cross roads and different types of crossing;
- practising crossing at junctions;
- crossing between parked cars;
- the importance of being able to hear and see traffic (not using a phone, listening to music or wearing a large hood while crossing the road);
- discussing whether children can tell how fast a vehicle is approaching, how long vehicles take to stop and that children must not assume that all vehicles are being driven safely.

The training has allowed children to independently practice making decisions when out on their own.

Year 5 and Year 6

A consent will be created on Arbor for all children in Year 5 and Year 6 where there will be an option to consent or decline. If you feel that your child is ready to start walking to and from school independently, please log in to your Arbor account and consent. This action needs to be completed and consent be given in order for your child to walk to and from school independently. You will be able to amend if required.

Please remind children who are walking to and from school without an adult that they are expected to behave appropriately on the journey and in the school grounds. At the end of the day, they should leave the school premises at 3.15pm and go straight home.

Mobile phones

If your child is walking to school independently, you may decide to allow them to have a mobile phone. The phone must be turned off and handed to the class teacher at the start of the day. The children will be given their mobile phone at the end of the day. Also, please encourage them to only take the phone out if you ring them or if they need to contact you on the walk to or from school. In the past, we have noticed some children walking along with their phones out and were concerned that this made them vulnerable, as well as affecting their concentration when crossing roads.

Please discuss the contents of this letter with your child

Many thanks,

Katharine Ellwood