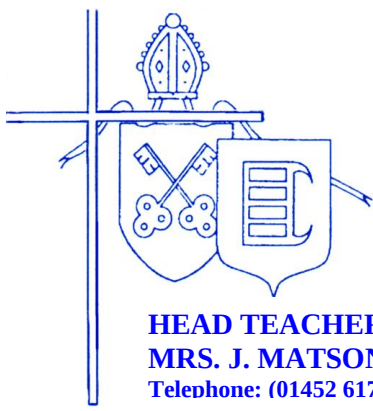




HEAD TEACHER:
MRS. J. MATSON
Telephone: (01452 617135)

**BARNWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLIN ROAD
BARNWOOD
GLOUCESTER
GL4 3JP**

admin@barnwood.gloucs.sch.uk
<https://barnwoodprimary.co.uk/>

Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

School drop off and pick up concerns

All staff in school work hard to provide a strong education for your children, we work hard to be positive role models for the children in our care and we support them as they grow and develop in understanding our 3 school rules.

- **Be respectful, kind and thoughtful**
- **Be the best you can be**
- **Be safe**

I would expect all parents and carers to be supportive of these and work together with us to demonstrate to our children what being respectful, kind and thoughtful looks like, what it is to strive to be the best you can be and how to stay safe as well as how to behave in a safe manner.

Unfortunately, and this saddens me greatly, the school has been contacted and informed of several concerning issues involving road users which we have reported to the police and the parking enforcement team:

- Verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour between parents/carers and local residents
- Cars parked across dropped curbs
- Cars parked on the wide pavements (where the double yellow lines are)
- Cars parked with two wheels on the pavement – restricting safe use of the pavement for pedestrians (especially parents with pushchairs and disabled members of our community who have to take to the road)
- Cars driving up to the school gates to drop off and then manoeuvring to turn round, causing a risk to pedestrians

I am sure you will agree that the above list does not demonstrate to our children respectful, kind and thoughtful behaviour, it does not demonstrate that all members of our local community are trying to show our children how to strive to be the best that they can be and it certainly does not demonstrate to our children safe behaviours.

I understand there is frustration, despite many warnings, that the decision was made to make our car park for staff only. This decision was not made to inconvenience parents and carers but to safeguard our children and staff from the dangerous and inconsiderate driving on our school site by some members of our school community.

It is very easy to blame the incidents listed above on the school for closing the car park. However, if all road users drive and park according to the law, if all members of our school community are respectful, kind and thoughtful, strive to be the best they can be and demonstrate safe behaviours then there should be no issues and a significantly reduced risk of an accident happening.



For anyone that is unsure of the law and rules of the road, **The Highway Code** can be found at this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

The section on **waiting and parking** can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/waiting-and-parking-238-to-252>

Rule 243 clearly states the following which apply in the vicinity of the school:

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

Please can I remind you that there is safe street parking available on Barnwood Avenue and in the lay-by in front of the church.

Wotton Hall car park is also available at the start and end of the school day. We have timed the walk from Wotton Hall car park to the school gate and it take 3 and a half minutes. It actually takes less time to park and walk than to drive along Colin Road to find a parking space and then to have to turn around and drive back to find somewhere to park!

I would also like to urge parents and carers who walk to school to ensure children are always well supervised on the journey to and from school. Staff have observed several children, walking, scooting or on bikes, a significant distance away from their adults.

Following our Governors meeting last night, where these issues were discussed at length, the Governors have agreed for school to open the side gate at the end of the school day for a month's trial to monitor if behaviours and road safety are improved.

We are aware the changes to the times of the school day now mean that all classes finish at the same time. The side gate will be open for 15 minutes, 3.15pm to 3.30pm. The gate will be locked at 3.30pm for the safety of staff and any clubs which are still on site. The month's trial will start on Monday 30th September and run up to October half term.

Please do not report concerns about the state of the alley to the school as the alley is not our responsibility. I would urge you to report your concerns on Fix My Street:
<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

The gate will **not** be opened in a morning as we need to ensure the site is secure for the day ahead. We will continue to operate the drop off window between 8.45am to 8.55am to support parents and carers. Please set off in good time, park in Wotton Hall, on Barnwood Avenue or in the lay-by in front of the church and walk the short distance to school.

Let's have a school community that puts the children first, where adults are positive role models and where we work together to all be the best we can be.

With thanks for your support and understanding,

Julia Matson
Headteacher