

Cavendish News

Friday 23rd September 2016

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A PLEA TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

Unfortunately, we have once again had several emails of complaint from local residents about the rude and aggressive behaviour of some Cavendish parents at drop off and pick up times. We think that a small minority of people are letting us down, spoiling the school's good reputation and causing a lot of upset. More importantly, some of them are putting children in danger. Read these extracts:

*'I had just left to collect my 18 month old from the childminder. As the traffic was tricky again I was stuck for a few moments just by the cross road junction. In that time I witness a parking enforcement officer start to ticket illegally parked cars. A man was shouting that he was only waiting to collect his kids from school and he did this every day so what was the problem? On my return the scenes were much worse. My partner and I witnessed parents screaming and swearing and the officer. Making comments like 'I don't give a **** about where I park' and 'don't you ***** dare to talk me like that'. Ironic really. Terrible behaviour for grown adults. The parent was holding a young child on her hip and had at least two others with her. There were other children within ear shot (including my own) and even children from surrounding schools.'*

*'...my partner and I were trying to come out of our road to take our daughter swimming. There was a car stopped and waiting in the middle of two parked cars so blocking the exit of our road. We could see that both the female driver and female passenger (who had just ran across the road from Cavendish school) were in a hurry to desperately get something sorted before the passenger could get in the car. We decided to wait but the car behind us beeped her horn (my neighbour who was heading out to work). The female passenger assumed it was us and then mimed and made very clear actions that said 'I'm not driving so **** **', whilst making a rude hand gesture.'*

'...a male driver who is a consistent offender at parking on the very corner on double yellows adjacent to Leopold in a silver vehicle. I was collecting my neighbour's children from your school and was carrying my toddler. Fortunately the kids were on my right including my toddler when the man jumped into his car and slammed into reverse and started moving without looking. I hit the rear of his car just as the car touched my hip. Fortunately my toddler was on my right hip. In hindsight I should have reported him to the police.'

'A huge lorry was collecting scaffolding at the bottom of Vicker Grove and a temporary barrier to prevent cars entering the road behind the school was put up. As usual some very 'important' parents ignored the barrier and chose to park in front of it in the middle of the road therefore blocking access for the lorry to leave. Another important parent did exactly the same behind. As I was leaving the playground the foreman was asking the second mother to move her car as she was running in with her children. She was shouting back saying she wasn't moving her car etc for everyone to see and hear!! The foreman was calm and just gave up as she continued to run through the playground. I do not think that shouting and being blatantly uncooperative is setting a very good example to her children and also for all your pupils to witness. I would never dream of abandoning my car anywhere as I respect others and the law. Similar scenarios happen most mornings regarding parking however this is the first time I've seen someone try to defend and justify their actions.'

We know that **most** of you are considerate towards local residents and to each other. We know that **most** of you put the safety of **ALL** children as top priority when you drop off and pick up. We feel upset at having to use our school newsletter – in which we should be celebrating all the great things that happen at Cavendish – to highlight such a negative issue caused by a minority of people. But we have to highlight it because we believe the situation out on the roads is unacceptable, and has been for some time.

To keep our children safe, and to allow everyone to have access to and from school or home without having to face abuse and aggression, we again ask you to:

- Walk to and from school if possible.
- If you must drive then please set off earlier, park further away from school and walk the rest of the way in. This will ease traffic congestion outside school.
- Don't park on double yellow lines.
- Don't abandon your vehicle in the middle of residential side streets.
- Don't resort to aggression and/or rude language in your dealings with people – it sets a terrible example to the children and makes the situation even more stressful for everyone.

Our neighbours expect it to be busy each morning and afternoon during term time, because Cavendish is a large school with 660 children making their way here each day. By 2019, that will have risen to 720. You also expect it to be busy as everyone converges on the playground each morning and afternoon. **What no-one should have to put up with is dangerous driving, the blatant disregard for what traffic controls are in place (e.g. double yellow lines, traffic control officers), and the foul mouthed aggression displayed by a small minority of our community. We have to live and work together, and we all need to play our part in improving the situation, because it cannot be allowed to continue as it is.**

NEXT WEEK AT CAVENDISH

Meetings for Y6 parents/carers about applying for high school places will take place next Tues, 27th September, at 3.30pm and 6.00pm – you need only attend one of them.

We will be holding a Macmillan coffee and cake morning in Nursery from 9am next Friday, 30 September. All Cavendish parents and carers are welcome – you don't have to have a child in Nursery. . All money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to our hearts.

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SPORTS NEWS FROM MR. KING

New gymnastics sessions are opening in the Chorlton area. Following on from Team GB's success out in Rio, Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle wants to ensure that there is enough opportunity for children to try gymnastics for the first time. Her company 'Total Gymnastics' currently works with 1900 children around the North West area, teaching them gymnastics after school. They are holding a free taster session at Chorlton High School on Monday 3rd October for ages 4+. Find out more here: <http://www.totalgymnastics.co.uk/>, and look out for the flyer in book bags next week.

Another huge 'well done' to our cross country runners. Once again, the teams performed extremely well and we are hopeful that they have made it through to the city wide final. We'll confirm whether that's the case as soon as we can.

I'd like to remind parents/carers not to let their child have ears pierced during term time – it causes real problems with PE, especially swimming. Get them done at the start of the summer holidays in 2017, then they can heal in time for September.