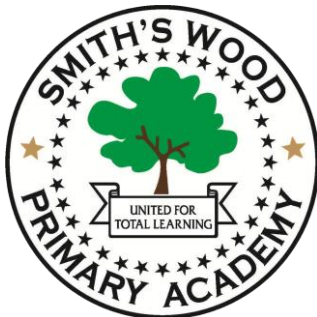


Principal
Miss. D. Givens
B.A.(Hons) Q.T.S



Burtens Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
B36 0SZ

Tel: 0121 779 8050

24th October 24



Dear Parent/Carer,

Police and schools in the Borough are committed to working together to protect our young people. West Midlands Police are sending you this letter to highlight the importance **road safety**. Our ongoing work includes highlighting the dangers that are prevalent on the road and what young people can do to keep themselves safe. To help ensure this we will provide educational inputs to ensure that students are well-informed about the risks of the roads and what they can do to keep safe.

Parents/carers need to understand that young children are unaware of dangers on the road, as they cannot assess speed or distance until they are older, nor are they able to cope with traffic safely until then. Though they may be able to repeat simple instructions such as holding hands near the road, they will not fully understand the danger. As they have a very short attention span, they can easily be distracted and forget rules which is more common place if they are upset or excited.

Some of the things that you can do to prevent a road traffic accident from occurring with your child when walking:

- Teach them to hold your hand or use walking reins
- Keep them on the inside of the pavement when walking, wearing bright clothes to be seen easier
- Teach them simple rules of the road but don't expect them to remember
- Start to teach simple ideas like 'fast' and 'slow' and 'near' and 'far' when you're out. Count how long it takes for a car to go past while you're waiting to cross. Play games/ask questions about which things are faster or slower like bicycles or cars.
- Teach them the Green Cross Code by encouraging them to think, stop, look and listen, wait, look and listen again and arrive alive.
- Remember that your child will copy what you do. Avoid stepping into the road without checking for traffic. Choose safe places to cross and explain to them why.

Visibility is a key issue all year round, all day round, whether children are walking or on their bike. However, over the autumn/winter months, it is especially important as the school day can start and end in twilight. Remember:

- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective clothing or accessories after dark

CHALLENGE, SUPPORT, PROGRESS

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VAT number 189285257

Registered office is situated at Burtens Way, Smith's Wood, Birmingham, B36 0SZ



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- If wearing a hoodie, remove the hood when crossing the road as it could restrict their ability to see and hear traffic approaching
- Always choose routes and cross at places that are well-lit
- Where possible, cross the road at a pedestrian crossing
- Remind older children who travel by themselves about road safety and the additional hazards in Autumn/Winter
- Devices can be a major distraction, so encourage your child to put them away and take any headphones out while crossing the road

Young people have been taught about how to be safe when walking on the pavement and when crossing roads. It would be appreciated if you speak to your child about this and reinforce these good habits when walking with them. **It should be noted that though common place, a privately-owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the land owner's permission. They remain illegal to use on a road or in a public place.** The following websites provide advice on road safety that are of benefit both parents/carers and young people of different ages:

- <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>
- <https://capt.org.uk/pages/category/safety-advice-injury-types/>
- <https://www.roadwise.co.uk/>

In closing, many parents/carers take the view that by driving their children to school they are keeping them safe. Yet the combination of each individual decision means an increase in vehicle traffic and congestion particularly at the school gate. Many children now miss out on the opportunity to develop vital road safety skills with their parents on the way to school. They fail to build up confidence and learn the ability to manage risk walking around their local community. Walking can improve overall fitness levels in children and adults. It is a cheap low impact way to exercise. Getting active in our daily lives can have a big impact on health issues such as obesity.

We realise that there are some parents/carers who have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however, many are driving short distances where walking is a real option. Even those who have to drive to school can do their bit by parking away from the school entrance and walking for part of the journey. What can you do to help keep everyone safe around the school gates? **Please don't:**

- Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction

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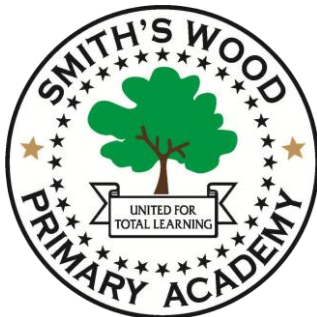
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- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds

These changes make a real difference to the congestion around schools, making the school run less stressful and far safer for everyone. Not only that but they will help your child's education. Research has shown that children who walk or cycle to school are more receptive to learning at the start of the school day than those who travel to school by car. Walk to school week is from 20-24 May 2025. Give it a try!

Yours sincerely,

Sergeant Stopher-Murray

Smiths Wood Neighbourhood Policing Team

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