



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Great Hadham Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts. CM23 2NL

Telephone: 01279 652576
Fax: 01279 466519
Email: admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk
Web: www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Peter Coldwell B.Ed. (Hons)

"To live, love and learn in a caring Christian Community"

10th March 2016

Dear parents/carers,

SAFE TRAVEL UPDATE

Car Park Options

The Safe Travel Team met to discuss the feasibility study from Synergy Construction and Property Consultants.

- Parking on the school field.
 - £130,000.
 - Spaces would be lost from the gravel car park, which is not our land, to provide access in and out.
 - Right of access across the land and planning permission needed.
- Using the staff car park as a drop off area.
 - £23,000 to change the layout and move existing parking spaces.
 - Additional money needed to employ staff to run.
 - Unsafe for pupils getting out of vehicles whilst cars are entering the car park.
 - Added congestion on Great Hadham Road due to vehicles waiting to pull in to the car park. Planning permission and consent from Highways needed.
- Using the playground as a car park.
 - £40,000 including resurfacing the playground due to the high level of traffic. The playground already needs significant resurfacing which we cannot afford.
 - Additional money needed to employ staff to run.
 - The layout does not allow vehicles and pedestrians to be segregated and therefore this option is not safe for the pupils.
 - Cars on the playground at the start and end of the day would have an impact on PE and after school clubs.
 - Added congestion on Great Hadham Road due to vehicles waiting to pull in to the playground. Consent from Highways needed.

Conclusion

After careful consideration, it was agreed that unfortunately none of the options are viable due to cost, health and safety and the need for rights of access, planning permission and Highways approval.

Next Steps

Whilst continuing to promote HCC Safe and Sustainable travel initiatives, such as park and stride and walking bus options, the safe travel team will also continue to look for viable solutions for those parents that travel a distance or cannot walk due to, for example, onward travel to work. One such option is a minibus pick up from an agreed point on the outskirts of Bishop's Stortford. We will be in contact shortly with information needed for our research.

Results of Safe Travel Survey

Thank you to the parents that took the time to complete the survey. The results of which will be published on the school website shortly.

- 27% are interested in walking buses. Three areas in the town are risk assessed: the bus station/railway station in town, the Bricklayers Arms, Bells Hill and Thorley. Details of a possible walking bus from Thorley will be provided shortly. If you can help on any of the routes please contact Nicola McManus sbmanager@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk
- 60% are interested in park and stride options. Details to follow of a park and stride day after the Easter holidays.

Joint Schools Travel Meeting

Last week governors and staff from local schools met with Lindsey Day, HCC School Travel Advisor, to propose solutions for providing safe walking routes and safer parking options along the Great Hadham Road. Lindsey is investigating various ways of obtaining funding. It was noted that Windhill21 have been able to start a parent run walking bus which is proving a success.

Finally, we are still looking for volunteers to join the safe travel group. If you would like to volunteer please speak to or e mail Nicola McManus.

Yours sincerely,

Ciara Nicholson
Deputy Headteacher

Nicola McManus
School Business Manager