18/11/2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The safety of our pupils is our highest priority. We are therefore writing to all parents and carers to remind everyone of the importance of driving and parking responsibly during drop-off and collection times.

Unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from local residents as do councillors regarding parking and driving around the school. More importantly, staff regularly witness behaviours that place our children at risk and create dangerous situations on roads that are already busy at the start and end of the school day. Examples include:

- Parking on double yellow lines.
- Parking across driveways and obstructing access to homes.
- Stopping in locations that block visibility for pedestrians and drivers.
- Parking on pavements, forcing pedestrians, parents with pushchairs and wheelchair users into the road.
- Dangerous manoeuvres, including U-turns and reversing in crowded areas.
- Leaving vehicles unattended in inappropriate locations.
- Dropping off or collecting children from the middle of the road.

Whilst these actions may save a few moments, they create unnecessary risks for everyone. ***It only takes one poor decision for a child to be seriously injured***. As a school, we cannot and will not ignore behaviours that compromise pupil safety.

The Council has recently approached the school regarding the possible introduction of a **School Street Scheme**. Such a scheme would restrict vehicle access to the roads surrounding the school at the beginning and end of the school day.

We have made clear to the Council that we have significant concerns about this proposal. A School Street scheme would affect everyone, including the vast majority of parents who park responsibly and considerately. It would also impact school staff and teachers who rely on access to the area in order to carry out their duties. We do not believe that the responsible behaviour of the majority should be penalised because of the actions of a small minority.

However, we must also acknowledge the reality that continued complaints from residents, together with evidence of unsafe parking and driving, strengthen the argument for increased restrictions and intervention.

We therefore ask all parents and carers to play their part by:

- Parking legally and considerately.
- Respecting residents and keeping access to homes clear.
- Allowing extra time for the school journey.

- Driving slowly and carefully around the school site.
- Following all road markings and parking restrictions.
- Walking, cycling, scooting or using public transport where possible.

Walking to school remains one of the simplest and healthiest ways to travel. It reduces congestion, improves air quality and helps children arrive at school ready to learn.
The message is straightforward: **the safety of our children must come first.** By showing consideration for our neighbours and behaving responsibly on the roads around the school, we can help maintain a safe environment for pupils and avoid the need for measures that would affect the whole school community.
Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Majid Ishaque - Headteacher -Gatton Primary School
Shazra Abbasi - Nursery Manager - Al Risalah Nursery