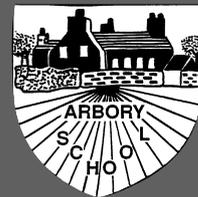


Arbory School Newsletter



3rd February 2011 No.3

Dear Parents

I have been dealing with a number of tasks related to transport and road safety in the past couple of days so I have decided to include information about as many of them as I can on one newsletter.

Car Park

Now that the car park is open please use it with care during morning and afternoon drop off and pick up times. The children have been told about using the little zebra crossing to the car park but it needs all of us to ensure the safety of everyone who is using this facility.

Please do not park either side of the crossing, in the staff car park or near the junction. Also make sure that you do not park on the disabled parking space unless you are a disabled badge holder.

The DoI have inspected the area and new school zone markings will extend the zig-zags southwards so that motorists have a clearer view of the crossing. I have also asked for yellow lines to be painted on the entrance road so that everyone has a better idea of where to avoid when stopping. I appreciate that this is a new facility but I know that with everyone's cooperation, the children's safety will not be compromised.

School Buses

Although we help those children who travel by routes 63 (Ronague) and 64 (Castletown/Ballakilpheric), we are unable to supervise children on other routes. Recently, we have received reports of children trying to cross the road by Vicarage Park in between parked cars. There have also been concerns about the children waiting for 15 minutes, unsupervised, before the Colby/Port Erin service arrives. If your child travels on the 4pm bus from Ballabeg to Colby/Port Erin we must ask that you talk to them about their own personal safety and the safety of others. They must always follow the Green Cross Code. Crossing to the bus stop can be dangerous as there is no safe crossing place and when the children arrive at the stop, there is no pavement. Cars will also have trouble seeing young children if they are not wearing reflectors or bright clothing. We do not want to see any accidents involving these children so please consider if there is an alternative way of them travelling home.

Transporting Children in Cars

We are very fortunate that so many parents help by transporting pupils to different events. Without them we would not be able to provide the kind of enrichment activities that we use to support the curriculum. In line with the DEC guidelines we are now asking parents to fill in a simple transport form which tells us something about the driver's insurance, road tax and the roadworthiness of the car. If you haven't done so already, please call into the office or download from the website and fill in a form so that we can put you on our list of approved drivers. Many thanks.

Front Doors

After discussions with lunchtime staff I have decided to lock the school front door between 12pm and 1.20pm. Door monitors will unlock the doors for people leaving the building and will fetch a member of staff when someone is wishing to enter the school. The doors will remain unlocked for the rest of the day unless there is no-one at Reception. If your child is returning after an appointment, please make sure that they have entered the building before you leave the school.

Friends of Arbory

Everyone is invited to attend the Friends of Arbory Meeting at 7pm on Monday 7th February.

Castle Rushen Taster Sessions

Please can all parents with children in Y6 ensure they have completed and returned their AP3 registration forms for CRHS or other secondary school, by 28th February.

There is to be an open evening for all parents whose children are in Y5 and Y6 at Castle Rushen next Tuesday 8th February. Please try to attend with your children as there will be many different activities on offer which will give your children an idea of what happens at secondary school.

Laa Columb Killey

This year's event will be held on Thursday 23rd June. The committee are always looking for new volunteers and new ideas so please let us know if you are interested in taking a more active role this year. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd March at 8pm in the Halley McLaig.

Yours sincerely

JH Ayres

Headteacher