



# Hughenden Primary School

Working Together, Empowering Lives, Enriching Minds

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## Keeping Our Children Safe

Date: Tuesday 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Dear Parents,

The safety of our pupils is paramount – within school and on their journey to and from school.

We are delighted that a school crossing patrol has been established to ensure the safety of the children crossing the Valley Road. However, we still need to improve the safety of their journey once they enter the Spring Valley estate. To do this, we need help from parents/carers.

Currently, a number of cars are being parked on the junctions of Frogmore Close and Fleet Close, blocking the path of the children crossing and creating a safety issue.

In the Highway Code, Rule 243 states: **"DO NOT park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, except in an authorised parking space"**. When you park in this position, you are blocking vision for other cars and blocking access for emergency vehicles such as a **Fire Engine and Ambulance** as well as coaches and delivery vehicles.

Perhaps even more importantly, when a car is parked on a junction, children are forced to cross the road immediately behind a car – perhaps even between two cars! Any vehicles turning into the road cannot see the children crossing and they cannot see you!

### **Parking on the junctions of Frogmore Close and Fleet Close puts our children at risk**

It is therefore critical that these junctions – and the junction at Cherry Tree Close – **are kept clear at all times** to allow safe passage for children to cross.

- This is particularly important as a growing number of our children walk to school independently, so do not have the advantage of an adult to see them safely across the roads.
- On rainy days, it is even more important to avoid parking on junctions as visibility is worse and there is a tendency for pedestrians to rush when trying to cross the road.

We would also like to point out that parking with a significant proportion of your car blocking the pavement also creates a problem for pedestrians. It would also be helpful if a space was left immediately close to the school gates to allow the children a view and a safe place to cross.

There are plenty of parking spaces further down all three roads on the estate – Fleet Close, Cherry Tree Close and Frogmore Close, even with parking on one side of the road only. Currently, only about one-third of these roads are filled, and it will only add an extra minute or so to the journey to park further down these roads. With a turning area at the end of each road it should also be easier than trying to manoeuvre within Spring Valley Drive. Furthermore, there is a parking area near to the Harrow pub and parking on Friars Gardens (where your children can use the lollipop crossing).

The map below shows the problem areas for parking near our school – marked in red.

Ideally, walking to school is the best solution as this means fewer cars. However, if you do drive your children to school we ask that you do not park in these red areas when dropping your children off at school

or picking them up. We also ask that you remind any friends or relatives who pick your children up to not park in these areas.



Between 8:30am and 4:30pm please do not drive onto the school premises or park around the roundabout (unless already in possession of an issued parking permit)

Thank you for helping us to make the journey to school a safe one.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Leighton  
Headteacher

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Leighton**

Spring Valley Drive, Hughenden Valley, Bucks, HP14 4LR

Tel No: 01494 562501

Email: [office@hughendenprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@hughendenprimary.co.uk)

[www.hughenden.eschools.co.uk](http://www.hughenden.eschools.co.uk)

