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Headteacher: Elizabeth Tansley MA

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Dear Parents

I am beginning this letter to you all with a confession: I too have parked outside the school gate during my time as a parent at The Hendreds.

At the time, I felt I had small children, special circumstances and a crazy schedule on my side. Not to mention the fact that there was, and still is, no double yellow line there.

And like many of you, I too have come out of school chatting and wandering straight on to the road. If nothing else, this is thoughtless and I realise, that it is high time to pay attention. Why have I changed my mind?

The school keeps receiving regular alerts about the situation outside our gate. **There are now weekly near-misses.** I do not dispute the legal right to drive up and park at the school gate for drop off or pick up, but appeal to your decency and our sense of community. The harsh truth is, we are currently risking a serious accident every day. At that point legalities will not matter.

Having small children and juggling life is a challenge. I know our parents are caring people who would never intentionally endanger the lives of others and I am convinced we are on the same page when it comes to putting children's safety first. As a community we are strong and I hope that rather than judging we will support each other in order to avoid the current threat.

Let's work together and..

- make it possible for all to park at Snells Hall and find the time to walk.
- communicate this message to anyone who will pick up or drop off: nannies, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, carers, husbands or wives.
- make sure all children walk on the pavement with small ones holding on to a grown up.
- choose to walk down Fordy Lane and across the woods - it does not take significantly longer (and feel free to remind me too).

Cars combined with everybody streaming out of school and on to the road - parents, toddlers, dogs, buggies, children walking, on bikes or scooters - create an incredibly dangerous situation. If there is no change in the way we all behave, there will be a day when we have an injured, or worse dead, child at the scene. It is not impossible - incidents like it are reported frequently in the news. If one day our school makes those headlines, we will all say "I never thought it could happen here, it could happen to us - it could happen to me."

Nobody could forgive themselves if they were the cause of an accident involving a child, and equally, I could not forgive myself if I did not write this letter to you all explaining why I have changed my mind, in the hope of changing yours too.

Please do not drive up to school, watch out for each other and make sure all children are kept as safe as possible.

Thank you!

Asta v. Stackelberg

Vice-Chair of Governors