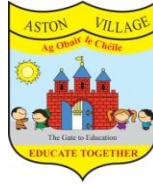


Wednesday 21st September 2016



ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

21st September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many of you may have heard of Project EDWARD (European Day Without A Road Death) which is taking place today Wednesday 21st September, and raising awareness of road safety issues across Europe.

It is therefore timely to remind all parents and guardians how important it is to drive carefully and exercise caution when dropping and collecting children to school, particularly in the morning times.

DUNLIN STREET ENTRANCE: A number of parents have raised concerns about safety in the mornings, particularly at the Dunlin Street entrance (silver gate) at the rear of the school. With almost 400 children and 50 staff arriving at school, pre-school children being dropped to Clever Clogs Creche, and many residents leaving the estate to travel to other schools or to work, there is a huge volume of traffic in the vicinity, peaking between 8.30am-8.50am each day.

The health and safety of our children is of utmost priority and we ask parents to be extra vigilant and please follow these basic rules:

- Please indicate clearly when pulling in and pulling out of a space
- Do not double park – if you want to accompany your child into the yard please use the staff car park and walk them across
- Do not make 3 point turns at the Dunlin Street entrance – this is extremely dangerous with such a large volume of children entering through the silver gate. Many of them are very small and not always visible.
- Please respect the Dunlin Street residents. Do not use their driveways for turning your vehicle and never block an entrance
- Do not park in disabled parking spaces or in the bus bays. They are reserved for parents with mobility issues and the three school buses that come in the mornings need to be able to pull in to their designated area to allow the children to get off safely
- Please respect directions from our caretaker Frank if given. His job is to monitor the traffic situation in the mornings to help ensure the safety of the children.

Wednesday 21st September 2016

DROP AND GO :In previous years we have operated a very successful “Drop and Go” system where parents could drive through the school gates, let their children out of their cars at the SNU garden gate (where they would be escorted to yard by a parent volunteer), and then turn at the roundabout and exit school grounds safely. Although a little bit of traffic congestion is inevitable we believe this is the safest way to drop the children to school but to be successful it will rely on parent volunteers (in all weathers!)

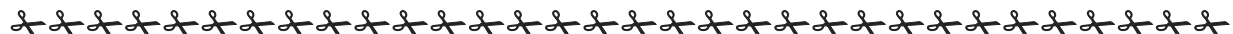
If you are free in the mornings and would like to offer to help with the Drop and Go system please contact Antonia in the office or return the slip below. It will involve arriving at 8.30am in the mornings and helping children out of their cars and bringing them through the SNU garden where they will join their class in line in the yard. The more volunteers we have the better as it would mean we can draw up a rota system.

HI-VIZ Jackets: If your children walk or cycle to school we strongly encourage them to wear HI-VIZ jackets particularly as winter starts to draw in and visibility is reduced. There are a number of HI-VIZ jackets available from the office in ages 4-6 and 7-9 which are free to parents to collect on a first come first served basis.

SNU GATE: Access through the SNU garden gate is before and after school hours only. The garden is part of Coisceim, our Special Needs Unit, and is the designated outdoor area for the 23 children on the autistic spectrum who attend classes there. Therefore, for health and safety reasons disruption to the area must be limited during the school day.

- Children are permitted to enter the garden in the mornings up until 8.50am when the bell rings (after which time the gate will be locked and children need to enter via reception if they are late).
- Children from 1st to 6th Class may also exit through the garden at 2.30pm.
- However all Junior and Senior Infant Children finishing at 1.30pm must exit via the silver gate on Dunlin Street or through the main car park (using path to the left of the main reception area). The SNU garden will be locked between 8.50am – 2.30 pm every day.

We hope that you all appreciate that the safety of our children is paramount and that we can all work together to make the area as safe as possible during drop off and collection times.



Drop and Go Volunteer:

I am available to assist with the Drop and Go system in the mornings from 8.30am – 8.50am on the following days:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Name: _____ Contact No: _____