



St Mary's

24th January 2024

**Re: Parking at The Royal British Legion, Crown Lane**

Dear Parents

We are writing to you all to clarify the situation regarding the parking at The Royal British Legion Club on Crown Lane and to ask for your support in ensuring we can continue to use this facility.

For many years there has been an informal agreement with the schools to allow parents to use the car park for the 'school runs' which helps alleviate to a small degree the otherwise dire traffic problems in the village. On the whole this arrangement works well, but over time it has become clear that parents are not appreciative or fully understanding of the situation with regards parking in the club car park. We have been made aware that, on occasions, parents have been disrespectful of and verbally abusive towards club staff. This behaviour is completely unacceptable and it puts in jeopardy the goodwill between the club and the schools and the access we have to the car park spaces.

It is important that parents realise this is a kindness, on the part of the social club which owns the car-park, and not a right for parents to use the spaces. Any events or activities taking place in the club will always take precedence over providing parking for parents on the school runs. This is only fair and to be expected.

In order to ensure there are no further incidents of disrespect or unkindness we would like to make it clear exactly what access parents may have to the parking. Generally, in the mornings, the spaces are widely available as school drop off tends to be before the club is in use. By afternoon pick-up the club is often in use for a range of activities and, quite rightly, these activities have right of use of the spaces ahead of school parents on the school run. Wednesday and Friday afternoons are particularly busy and there are unlikely to be any spaces available for parents on these days. The club is also regularly used for wakes and these can use up all of the spaces. Whenever you use the spaces in the Club car park it is vital that you do not abuse this parking and that you move your cars as soon as the school run is done. Please do not be tempted to leave it there whilst you do other things in the village. We have use of any free spaces only for the time it takes to do drop-off and pick-up, no longer.

If you use the car park regularly you will know that the surface has deteriorated badly over the past decade. Unfortunately, the very high cost of resurfacing means temporary repairs are the norm. Users will experience bollards being placed around bays and this may be because of a repair, or, if a delivery is due to the club and extra room is required for access. When the bollards are there, they are there for a reason, not to block spaces from parents use but to ensure spaces are safe to use or available for expected deliveries.

In summary, we are fortunate to have use of any of the spaces, as many or as few as they are on different days, but it is important that we respect those who work in the club. Please do not rely on there always being spaces for the use of parents. If spaces are available that is a bonus. If parents are not respectful of the staff in the club and of our access to these spaces to help the schools, then it is possible that the kindness will be withdrawn and there will be no access for anyone.

As schools we are extremely grateful to the Royal British Legion Club for allowing us any access to these spaces and trust that you, as users, will be respectful of this kindness and ensure you are respectful to anyone else using the car park or of any member of club staff who asks you to move your car. If any incidents are reported to us we will act on the information given and address this directly with parents. It would be a real shame if we were unable to use these spaces because of a tiny number of disrespectful parents.

We hope that, having taken the time to read this letter, we can now rely on all our parents to use the Club car park respectfully and thoughtfully without an assumption that spaces will always be available.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs T McCarley  
Headteacher  
Old Basing Infant School

Mrs G Lillywhite  
Headteacher  
St Mary's Junior School