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Near misses

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am legally bound to record 'near misses' that relate to our school children. What this entails is if a child – heavens forbid - comes close to being hit by a moving vehicle – then it is recorded in a log book (date, time, child, vehicle) and if there is a major concern, the details of which are reported to the relevant authority. In the past we have seen vehicles driving too fast up the lane or reversing vehicles almost hitting children.

At Droxford Junior School we take all forms of safety very seriously: E-safety, cycling awareness, food safety, water safety, stranger danger etc... As teachers / adults / parents ourselves we discuss our responsibilities when we are on school trips and discuss risk assessments. In the past I have asked for support with parents in this matter and the response has been fantastic.

However it does need to be made clear that certain situations can create 'near misses' and be potentially dangerous for our children. This is why the police, parish council and governors of the school urge me to stress the need for our children to be dropped off in pre-agreed safety zones. I therefore urge drivers not to drive into The Park – especially to drop off in the garages. A lot of people park in the fire station car park, as the school requests, and allow their children to walk up believing the route to be safe. But the situation with cars turning and shunting around in a small garage entry is an accident waiting to happen – even leading to a 'near miss'.

If you are concerned your child might be late – don't rush. Safety of all children is paramount. If the weather is poor – please ensure your child is wearing the appropriate clothes they would need in school and then they could use these walking the short journey too school from the drop off zones.

I don't have a long 'near miss' list – please don't run the risk of me adding to it.

Thank you for your time and careful considerations

Matthew Dampier

Head teacher

