

Willow Tree Community Primary School



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Headteacher: Dr Helen Davey

22nd November 2018

Dear Y5/6 Parent/Carer

I have been contacted by a member of the public about two near miss traffic incidents this week involving Willow Tree pupils on their way to school. School staff have also reported witnessing pupils darting through traffic at the end of the school day.

In the first incident a child rode straight out in front of traffic on his bike and narrowly avoided being hit by a car. In the second incident, two children stepped off the pavement in front of an oncoming car, causing the driver to make an emergency stop. In both instances the children were unaccompanied, meaning that these are Year 5/6 children.

Getting hit by a car is one of the leading causes of death for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Research has shown that children's perceptual and attention abilities make them less capable of noticing an oncoming car, and even less able to judge the vehicle's proximity and speed.

Association for Psychological Science 2014

This week (19th-25th November) is Road Safety Week. Please talk to your children about the importance of ensuring that they cross the road at designated crossing points.

Please ensure your child is aware of, and follows, the Green Cross Code. To follow the code, children must:

- Find a safe place to cross
- Stand on the pavement near the kerb
- Look all round for traffic and listen
- If traffic is coming - let it pass then look all round again
- When there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road
- Keep looking and listening for traffic while crossing

Please reiterate these rules to your children.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "H. Davy".

**Helen Davy
Headteacher**