Dear Parents

Unfortunately, this morning the crane had blocked the access road to school, sufficient to make it a challenge for most cars to pass. Undoubtedly, there are some parents who could have made it past but a decision was made, that as it would create a bottle neck, if some drivers decided not to take the risk, it would be preferable to redirect the traffic. I apologise if the staff sent to redirect did not fully explain the situation.

The situation outside the school continues to be a safety hazard and we have repeatedly asked for your support to follow the simple directives we have provided in order to improve the flow of traffic. It would appear that a significant number of parents seem to think that these guidelines do not actually apply to them.

I genuinely think that they do not consider their single minor infringement a problem – problem is when several of our parents adopt this stance the situation rapidly deteriorates to chaos and then instead of accepting responsibility for their own actions it has somehow been a shortcoming of the school that they find themselves in a frustrating and potentially hazardous position. The situation this morning at the nursery gate was exactly this, as drivers are not being requested by their employers to park away from the school. The area we suggest is either at the Commissary entrance to the road or at the end of the road beside the Equestrian Centre of Wadi Degla Cub. They should then wait for a call to come and collect at the appropriate gate. It was further compounded this morning as cars were doing u-turns. Had the cars continued on we had created an area free of cars and people to do a U-turn in. I fully understand that these requirements involve a slight delay for parents. Unfortunately this is unavoidable if we are to operate any kind of system.

Please reflect on your actions and follow the guidelines which I have again attached.

And a further plea. Our primary school children are fit, able bodied, young people who are eminently capable of opening car doors for themselves and carrying bags – it appears that this is a life skill that a significant number have yet to master. No one doubts the luxury of having a driver and the assistance that they can give however, we live in a world where we are surrounded by other people and if children do not learn how their actions impact on others when they are young then one worries about what kinds of adults they will become. If children are ready with their bags to exit the car as soon as it stops that would significantly improve the flow. Inevitably this is not feasible for all families - those with pre-school children or lots of siblings so it is not possible for the bags to be with them in the car. However, a significant number of cars pull up with one or two children in the car. The car stops, the driver turns off the engine, then he starts opening doors, then he starts opening the boot, then he has to close the doors, then he has to get back into his seat, put his seatbelt on and start the engine and the whole process has taken a unnecessarily long time resulting in the cars behind starting to discharge in the middle of the road, they then get tooted at by cars behind them as the area in front of school is now free.

Despite the situation today I am encouraged to see so many of the pipes being laid and a glimmer of hope that the situation is eventually coming to an end. Once we are able to clean the area up we will install new signage and road markings which will simplify the guidelines and hopefully improve the access to school.

We have been informally advised that the crane will be removed today, as this cannot be relied upon our plan is to use the Equestrian entrance until further notice. I will continue to send site support staff

to direct traffic for as long as necessary. Consequently in the absence of staff you can assume you can revert to the correct route. An email will be sent confirming this.

Thanks again – let’s keep our children safe.

Regards,

Barbara Flynn