



Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you have had a good break this Easter and that you have been able to spend some quality time together as a family. As we prepare to **start term** again on **Monday the 15th April at 8:00am** for Breakfast Club, it is a helpful moment to revisit how your child should make their way to school on time and to give you some information about some developments that will support improved safety at the front of school.

Walking/Cycling

Walking or cycling to school is by far the healthiest and least polluting way of getting to school. Most of our scholars get to school in this way which benefits their mental health and overall fitness levels. You will be pleased to know that Doncaster Council has worked with us to build a new and secure bike shed with a roof so that bikes can be kept dry and safe during the school day.

In June, scholars will have access to courses that teach them about cycle safety. We will be offering cost price bike locks and helmets as well as cheap bikes to encourage this way of getting to school. We are doing everything we can to support healthy and environmentally friendly travel options that keep the roads clear and your child safe.

Public Transport

Scholars who live further away from school may want to use public transport to get to school. If the bus is the best option for your child, please be aware that the school day starts at 08:00am for Breakfast Club. This means that they should be using a service which gets them into school for this time.

We have reason to believe that there are a significant minority of children who would qualify for Free School Meals, but the family has not yet applied. Applying for Free School Meals not only means that your child will get a meal in school each day for no charge, but it also means that you can apply for free travel to and from school on the bus. I would recommend that you follow these links and see if you are eligible:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/free-school-meals>

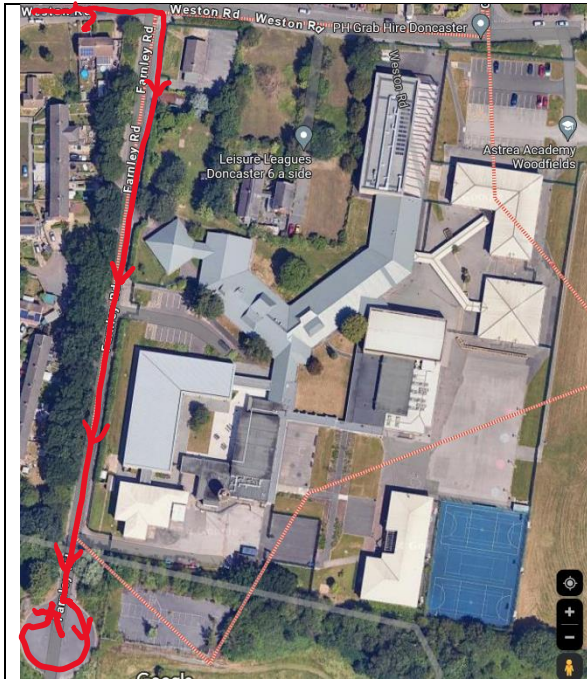
<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/transport-to-and-from-school>

If you would like help applying for this, please contact the school at Office@AstreaWoodfields.org and a member of staff will be in touch to offer support.

Driving

We strongly discourage parents/carers from driving to and from school at the beginning and the end of the school day. Most of our families have responded well to our requests to encourage their children to walk/cycle, and if car use is necessary, to use our designated school drop off zone. We are incredibly thankful for your support, and we are delighted to say that the front of school is now safer and calmer.

Local residents, and your children, have complained about the small handful of road users who are driving too fast, mounting the curb, parking on yellow lines, leaving their engines idling and acting discourteously. **It is not necessary to drop your child off and pick them up directly from the school gate.** There is simply not enough space outside school to allow this to happen in a safe manner. Please see this diagram that explains how to use our designated pick up/drop off zone:



- 1) If it is necessary to drive to school, please drop your child off/pick them up at the top of Weston Road and allow them to walk the short distance to school.
- 2) On the rare occasion where this is not possible due to an emergency, **turn right down Farnley Road.**
- 3) Drive **all the way to the end** and use the **turning circle.**
- 4) Drop off/Pick up your child
- 5) Drive to the end of Farnley Road and **turn left.**

Thank you for your courtesy and consideration.

Additional Measures

I was incredibly proud of the scholars who represented our desire to improve road safety, increase healthy transport and reduce pollution at City Hall last term and won a prize for their presentation. A new camera is now in place that will automatically issue Fixed Penalty Notices. Doncaster Council has sent a separate letter that I am also sending to you today about this development. Further measures are in the pipeline after the successful campaigning of our scholars.

Good News from Woodfields

As we begin a busy new term that sees the Class of 2026 take their GCSE Exams and enjoy the 2024 Prom at the Earl of Doncaster in June, it is worth reflecting on our considerable collective achievements last term. A group of scholars will be going to the Emirates Stadium having won the regional Premier League Inspires competition, Woodfields was shortlisted for a national award for our work on being the first Asthma Friendly School and we have been able to run our first ever Half Term Activity Programme. We hope that scholars will sign up for the programme we will run in Summer.

I hope that this message finds you well and I look forward to seeing everyone back at Woodfields at 8:00am on Monday 15th April.

Yours faithfully,



Mr David Scales
Principal