



Mrs Alison Pope, Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

24 November 2025

### **School Car Park Update**

I am writing to share an important update about the closure of the school car park for parent parking. As this has been raised by many families, I wanted to provide a clear overview so that everyone has the same information.

When I joined the school, even before the recent fire closure, the car park was identified as a significant health and safety concern because there are no continuous paths or pavements leading to the main pupil entrance, pedestrians have to walk among moving vehicles. Sadly, over the years there have been accidents and near misses involving cars, staff vehicles, and pupils walking between buses and parked cars. Even during the recent closure, unauthorised entry has led to further incidents, which highlights the ongoing risks.

The car park also doubles as a bus turning area, which must remain clear. As school has become oversubscribed, the numbers and size of school transport accessing the car park has increased. When parents have accessed limited spaces available on the site, this has caused:

- Parking on verges and double parking
- Traffic congestion spilling onto the main road
- Difficulties for coaches and minibuses to manoeuvre safely and depart on time
- Staff struggling to park or access spaces

It is very unusual for schools to open their car parks to parents, precisely because of these risks. In addition, safeguarding has become an increasing priority. When the main gates are open, it becomes difficult to monitor who is entering the site. At busy arrival and departure times, when large numbers of pupils are moving through, this creates a genuine safeguarding risk.

### **Other factors also need to be considered:**

- Contractors require access as we prepare for major rebuilding works following fire damage. Heavy machinery will be on site in the coming months.
- Misuse of the bus stop area has previously delayed the Arriva School Bus service and caused tailbacks on the main road.

We are working with Shropshire Highways on enforcement of double yellow lines, speed restrictions, and the possibility of a zebra crossing. For older pupils, designated village drop-off points remain available at Stans, The Keys, Lens Plaice, and The Institute. Please note that Morlas Meadows is not an authorised area.

We know this change requires adjustment, but pupil safety must remain our priority. To support families:

- We are sharing up-to-date information about local authority school transport so you can check eligibility and register your child. [Mainstream School Transport Ages 5-16 – Shropshire Council](#)

**ST MARTINS SCHOOL**

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- The Arriva bus service is available, and we provide a school minibus for some younger pupils living in Gobowen.
- We are proposing a primary shuttle service from village drop-off points. If this would benefit your family, please register using the form on the website [media 5417 shuttle bus registration form.pdf](#) or via the form [Shuttle Bus Place Request Form – Fill out form](#)
- Car sharing and active travel are strongly encouraged to reduce traffic volume.

#### Promoting Active Travel

We would love families to consider walking or cycling to school where possible. Active travel reduces congestion, improves safety, and supports pupils' health and wellbeing. For those living further away, combining walking with drop-off points or using public transport can make a real difference. Together, we can create a safer, healthier environment for all pupils.

#### Additional Access for Primary Parents

To support families with younger children, we will open the gates leading towards the former reception area. This will allow primary parents to walk their children along a safer pathway without needing to enter the main car park.

Please complete this short survey on travel to school: [School Travel and Distance Survey for Parents – Fill in form](#)

#### Key points to note:

- The site remains open for “drop and go” before secondary school starts, but gates close at 8:30am to protect pupils walking across the area.
- Blue Badge holders retain access as usual. Please display your badge. If your child has a temporary medical issue like a plaster cast/crutches, please let school know and we can issue a car park pass for the time period.
- Breakfast Club can be booked on Arbor for primary pupils with a 7.40am start or 8.10am start for Breakfast Club. Pupils can be dropped in the primary car park until 8.30am when the gates are closed
- After School Club (primary) can be booked on Arbor for primary pupils from 3.25pm - 4.15pm or 3.25pm until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday or 4.30pm on a Friday. The car park is open for collection from 3.45pm when other pupils are off site.
- We will review the car park layout once rebuilding work is complete, likely during the summer closure.
- Creating a new car park is not feasible due to funding restrictions and guidance from Sport England regarding green spaces.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, but please note that we are unable to respond to individual correspondence on this matter. Thank you for your understanding and for working with us to keep all pupils safe and well.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Al Pope'.

Ms Alison Pope  
Headteacher

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