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**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

29th December 2009

Dear Parent,

I am the Police Inspector that has responsibility for delivering Policing Services in the geographical area around the Al-Ansaar Madrassa (M.T.Q.) on Garstang Road, Preston, and I am responsible for a broad spectrum of policing matters including road safety and reducing casualties on our roads.

Local residents have raised concerns regarding the safety of parents and children as they cross Garstang Road to and from the Madrassa. I welcome the presence of the Madrassa and appreciate the value the Muslim community places on it. However, having personally observed some of the risks that pedestrians are taking crossing the road, I have serious concerns that someone will get knocked down before too long. I do not want there to be an accident and recently had a meeting with (Moulana) Farook Kazi at the Madrassa to discuss road safety issues. He offered me the opportunity of addressing parents through the newsletter for which I am grateful.

I know that there has been some work done already to maximise your safety i.e. the high visibility vests for the children, but I wanted to take this opportunity to re-iterate the safety message and ask that you take great care when crossing Garstang road with your children. I would ask that you consider the following:

- Please use the crossing at Garstang Road and Watling Street Road if need to cross Garstang Road. It is the safest option and is only a short walk further up Garstang Road.
- Ensure your child wears the hi-viz vest
- Please do not cross the first carriageway on the A6 and wait on the white line until there is a gap in traffic on the 2nd carriageway to cross. I think this is dangerous, particularly in the dark evenings. Cars in both outer lanes often straddle the broken white lines in order to overtake cars on their inside.

We are committed to making our roads as safe as possible for you, and in the medium / long term:

- We will attend a meeting with the Council, Highways and Community Safety Partnership to look at any options to improve safety
- We will work with (Moulana) Farook Kazi to look at how best to manage the available space and manage the access and egress points as efficiently as possible to maximise safety.
- I will Instruct specialised Police Headquarters Roads Policing staff to attend the Madrassa to speak to the children re road safety.
- My local officer will visit the Madrassa and reinforce the above messages.
- We will research the feasibility of using a Marshalls scheme similar to ones already running in Blackburn.

On another matter, there have been complaints regarding parents abandoning cars blocking the pavement on the Burning Desires side of Garstang Road closer to Blackpool Road. I would request that cars be parked responsibly as per the blue booklet issued by the Madrassa, otherwise I may have revert to an enforcement phase and ticket those vehicles causing an obstruction.

I would be more than happy to discuss the contents of this letter at any point with a representative group of parents if you wish.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe 2010.

Yours faithfully

COLM O'NEILL
INSPECTOR 0403