

Dear Parents/Carers,

In light of the tragic events in Manchester this week and in response to a number of safeguarding alerts in the local area that we have been made aware of, I wanted to write to reassure you that keeping your children safe remains our highest priority.

Whenever we receive information from parents, other schools or the police regarding safeguarding incidents in the local area we aim to pass the appropriate information on in a factual and prompt way. We do this by sending out messages via the texting service or via our school app. For this reason I would remind you how important it is that we always have an up to date mobile number. **If you change your mobile number you must remember to inform the school office.** I would also urge you to download the school app.

We often speak to the children in assemblies and PSHE lessons regarding personal safety and potential dangers that exist both on the internet and in the physical world. When incidents or tragedies occur staff aim to deal with any questions or worries that the children may have in an appropriate and sensitive manner. We have a range of resource materials produced by charities and associations that help us to address a number of difficult issues and we draw upon these to guide us in providing support for the children.

As a school we have a wide range of 'risk assessments' in place. Ahead of any educational visit, sporting event or school holiday a thorough risk assessment is undertaken by the teacher organising the event. This is signed off by myself or Mr Boyle and then shared with other appropriate staff. We have risk assessments in place for use of the school field, the use of the Thompson Centre and any other significant activities that take place around school.

Each term we practice a whole school fire evacuation so that the children and staff are familiar with this procedure. We also have in place a detailed 'lock down' procedure that is practiced within school to ensure it is fit for purpose and familiar to staff. In the event of a major incident on our school site and it being deemed necessary to evacuate the pupils and staff from the site, we have Lansbury Bridge School as our named 'place of safety' and the children would be evacuated to this site. Staff have practiced this evacuation route and are familiar with this procedure. In the event of a major evacuation or lock down, we would communicate via text message so again I urge you to make sure that your contact phone number is up to date.

We want to continue to offer our pupils a range of challenging, exciting and varied experiences. Our staff aim to be alert and vigilant at all times but equally we do not wish to alarm the children. We will continue to respond to any incidents in an appropriate and informed manner and through routinely practicing our agreed emergency procedures we will continue to approach our professional responsibilities with careful consideration and confidence.

If anyone has any further questions, concerns or is able to share any suggested improvements to our current systems please get in touch.

I have received two links to websites that may be a support to you in speaking to your children about recent events.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-40011787>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism>

Many thanks

Mrs P Farnell

Headteacher