



Westlands Primary School

A member of Swale Academies Trust



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VTP/SGL/Reported Incident/April 2023

Friday 28th April 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Following on from the local news at the beginning of the week, where there was an alleged attempted kidnapping reported near Kemsley primary School, I just wanted to write to you to let you know the measures we have put in place to ensure safety is our key priority.

I spoke to the local police station yesterday and they reassured me that they have more officers patrolling the streets and parks near to schools at the start and end of the school day. They have said that if you as a parent/carer are concerned or have any worries you can call 101 for advice and support.

All children have been spoken to about stranger danger through class assemblies. It has been explained that if they see anybody outside of school that is making them feel unsafe then they can call 999 immediately.

As a school, we will only dismiss children to people who are on your child's consent list. If somebody comes to collect your son/daughter that isn't on your consent list, then they will not be dismissed until we have been able to make contact with you.

We have staff on duty on the playgrounds in the mornings and they wear high vis jackets so they can easily be identified as school staff. This is the same during unstructured times and all adults now wear high vis jackets when on playground duty so children can easily identify them. The staff on duty in the mornings are positioned to be able to have sight of different entrances and exits to the school site.

Our lollipop lady is out on the main road at the beginning and end of the school day and we have now given her a walkie talkie to take with her so she can alert the school of anything unusual should she need to.

With all of this in mind, please can we remind you that the school doors open at 8:30am and children should not be left on the playground on their own before this time. If you need to drop your child off before this time, then you will need to see if there is space at breakfast club. It is not safe for children to be left on their own and we will need to make contact with you if we notice your son/daughter on their own before 8:30am.

If your son/daughter walks to school on their own, please ensure they have their mobile phone with them (If they own one). They will need to give it to an adult as soon as they arrive at school. Please have a conversation with them around stranger danger to reiterate the discussions that are had in school. Please can we also ask that you ensure they are not leaving home too early so they are not on the playground for a long period of time before the doors open.

If you have any further concerns around the events that happened this week and would like more reassurance, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Pettett', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Pettett
Head of School