

Newtown Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S Chesney-Ly
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Monday 20th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Safety Update

As you may already be aware. After school today Monday 20th March, there was an incident on Anne Close to which the police were called. Staff and parents acted quickly to deescalate the situation to ensure that everyone's safety was maintained. I can assure you that the perpetrator was not a member of the school community and the incident was not linked to school in any way. The police have confirmed that the offender is not from the Sandwell area at all and that this was a one-off incident fuelled by a severe mental health episode. All witnesses have supported police with their investigation. The police have acted swiftly and the matter is now in their hands.

I would like to assure you that the school site is safe and families should not be worried. Children may have questions and it is important that we reassure them. We will be holding an assembly first thing tomorrow morning. Children will also have time in class to ask any questions they have. Children will have opportunities for mindfulness and time to focus on other activities to support their mental health.

If you or your child have been affected by this incident then please contact Childline on: 0800 11 11. We do have Mental Health trained staff in school as well as trained counsellors should you need any further support. If you are worried and have any further questions then please call the school office and ask to speak to Headteacher, Mrs Chesney-Ly or Deputy Headteacher, Mr Ludlam.

I would personally like to say a big thank you to the families/parents who demonstrated what a true responsible citizen looks like. What a credit to Newtown and our community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Chesney-Ly