



Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School

Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

13th October 2020

Re: Concerns regarding Police presence at school

Further to a few phone calls received this morning I am writing to reassure parents and carers regarding the presence of police officers outside of school this morning.

Firstly, as most of you will be aware, Durham Constabulary have had a regular presence outside of school since we returned in September. The reason for this is two-fold: to monitor and assist us in ensuring everyone is driving and parking safely around the area of the school and also to ensure that we are adhering to the requirements for social distancing and implementing our risk assessment procedures.

I think the concerns voiced this morning and on social media today have been around the sound of 'loud bangs' which have been described as sounding like 'gunshots' which were heard yesterday and this morning at around 8.45am. The school, along with some of our neighbours have notified the police who are investigating these complaints.

I do not for one moment believe there is any risk to our children, parents or the school. I reported concerns about this issue as it is not helpful to have these noises occurring during the times children are coming into school. The whole team have worked really hard to welcome our children and families back to school and we do not want anyone worried or upset by these loud sounds.

I totally understand that everyone is in a heightened state of anxiety and stress at the moment given the challenging circumstances we are now living in and I am therefore writing this letter with the sole aim of reassuring everyone that I do not believe there to be any danger whatsoever and that these incidents have not occurred on or near the school grounds.

If anyone would like to contact me to discuss any ongoing concerns please do not hesitate to do so.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross
Acting Head Teacher

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