



OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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9th October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to provide an update following the shocking incident which took place outside the school at home time on Friday. I struggle to comprehend how anyone would wish to carry out such an act in front of children.

Following the incident the police have carried out an investigation. The latest information I have received is that the alleged perpetrator has been arrested and that the victim is intending to press charges. I have forwarded the police a clip of the attack which has been circulating on WhatsApp.

I have used the powers delegated to me under Section 547 of the Education Act to ban the suspect from the school premises, as I believe he poses a threat to the wellbeing of pupils and staff. Should he attempt to access the school site this will be a criminal offence and the police will be called. Depending on the outcome of the police investigation, it may be the case that further bans are needed, should any additional adults be deemed to pose a risk.

The incident on Friday, was one of a series of events, all of which had been reported to the police and received a police response. Worried by these events, I requested that the police be present outside the school at the end of the day. The police officer, advised us to contact the Bromley North Safer Neighbourhood Team, which we did. They advised that they would attend if there were officers available. Regrettably all were busy, so the police did not come.

Before the police left on Friday evening, I again requested that the police be visible outside the school at drop off and collection time on Monday. I was again referred to the Bromley North Safer Neighbourhood Team, which I contacted yesterday. They emailed this afternoon to say they will attend tomorrow to liaise with the school and any concerned parents. The local authority have been kept informed of events since Friday morning and yesterday I also emailed the local MP, Apsana Begum, to ask for her help in securing a police presence outside the school.

I am conscious that despite attempts by school staff to usher parents towards Bromley High Street, some pupils did witness the attack. To address the potential impact this may have on the children's mental health, we will be holding special assemblies on Monday morning. Teachers have also been advised on the signs of emotional distress and asked to look out for these. As some of you may be aware, we also have we also offer Thursday Talktime when children in years 3-6 have the opportunity to talk to our School Therapist about issues that are worrying them.

We very much hope that the actions taken will prevent such an incident happening again. However, please remain vigilant at this time and contact the police or Crimestoppers ([an independent charity which is separate to the police](#)) if you have any information which you feel it is important to share to help keep our community safe. Crimestoppers guarantees anonymity and can be contacted on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111) or [via their website](#).

Yours faithfully,

Mr G. Palmer
Headteacher



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham