

1st November 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Police Talks for Pupils in Year 5 and 6 and Parents/carers

At West Acton safeguarding our pupils is always a high priority – as you will know from our past parent workshops, participation in the FGM Project and our extensive website resources.

<https://www.westactonprimaryschool.org/safeguardingandwellbeing/safeguarding>

<https://www.westactonprimaryschool.org/safeguardingandwellbeing/e-safety>

You will be aware from the news, sexual violence and harassment in society and in schools is of great concern. Whilst our pupils are of primary age it is vital that we not only protect them but equip them to feel safe, act respectfully towards others and speak out if they are uncomfortable or do not feel safe. As I wrote to you in the summer, we must also ensure our pupils do not use homophobic language.

Through our school values, British Values, PSHE lessons and daily school life we constantly remind pupils of the Equality Act, Protected Characteristics, My Body My Rules, No means no and how to stay safe online. To enhance this provision I am delighted to be able to offer extra sessions and a parent session in the next few weeks by PC Andrew Pidding from the West Area (WA) Youth Engagement Team, Metropolitan Police Service.

Message from PC Andy Pidding

I have been invited to speak to the students of year 5 and 6 on Wednesday 3rd November during their morning assemblies and will be covering the subjects of online safety, free speech and the responsibilities this has including the use improper words. I will also cover how their actions both inside and outside of school may affect and impact themselves, the school and the community as a whole both immediately and in the future.

I will also be returning on the 26th November to speak specifically to the Year 5 students and present our Future Life talk which covers the subjects of knives, gangs, youth violence, drugs and alcohol all in an age appropriate manner within a one hour session which will be presented individually to each year 5 class. Year 6 also have a dedicated programme of three sessions throughout the year.

Subject to other more pressing commitments (this is unlikely, but a possibility due to my role) I will be attending the school for around 08.30am on the dates above so should you have any specific concerns or questions please re the upcoming talks please do not hesitate to speak to me on the day or you are welcome to email me direct beforehand at Andrew.pidding@met.police.uk and I will respond as soon as practicable.

In addition, Miss Kondo has asked me to hold a parents' information session at 6.00pm on Thursday 18th November - this will be online and an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about how you can support and prepare your child for life in modern Britain. Miss Kondo will send the teams link out nearer the time.

I hope that you will be able to attend the parent session with PC Pidding – this is for parents with children of ALL ages. Thank you for your support with ensuring our children's safety.

Yours faithfully,

Karen Kondo
Headteacher