



13th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Stranger Danger

Schools occasionally receive reports about Stranger Danger. This is where suspicious behaviour by a member of the public is reported to us by students, parents/carers or staff. When we receive these reports, we inform the Police, the Local Authority and our students and staff, so that they can remain vigilant. The Local Authority also inform the School about incidents reported by other schools.

Today we were informed of an incident which occurred yesterday afternoon.

One of our students has reported the following:

On Thursday, 12th November between approximately 4.40pm and 5.15pm, a man began following the student from near the Co-Op in St Nicolas Park. He was wearing a dark puffy coat and dark trousers. He was whistling as he walked behind the student. He followed the student until the roundabout at Pallett Drive. He then went down Ullswater Avenue.

A second man then started following the student as she walked past Buttermere Park and walked down to the bottom of the hill at Langdale Drive. He was wearing a dark red coat and denim jeans. He possibly had dark hair. He followed the student to Kendall Close.

This matter has been reported to the Police.

Whenever we have a Stranger Danger incident, we give reminders to students about remaining safe when walking to and from school. We give out the following message:

'We would like to remind you of the importance of being careful when you are out. If you walk to and from school, try to walk with friends in a group and never go anywhere with someone you don't know.'

Remember:

- *Try to avoid walking/cycling alone – especially after dark.*
- *Be aware of people around you.*
- *Stay to well-lit roads or main paths.*
- *If you feel uncomfortable and you are able to, go to the home of a friend if nearby and ask for help or to a local shop and tell them you are worried.*
- *Do not be tricked into invitations to accompany someone you do not know, sit in someone's car or go to their house. Seek help immediately if anyone does this.*
- *If someone did try to grab you it is ok to break all the rules of politeness to others e.g. scream, kick, punch, bite etc to draw attention and alert others to the fact that you are in danger.*
- *Please also remember that sometimes a stranger can be the only person who can help us and is a far safer option than not talking to anyone; if you feel uncomfortable in any situation go to the nearest public building, for example a shop, or a public place. Whilst it is important we remain vigilant it is equally important to remember that not ALL strangers are "bad".*
- *Tell an adult straight away if you have any concerns.*



Higham Lane School

Helping Learners Succeed

Headteacher: Phil Kelly BA MBA NPQH

Thank you and keep safe!

The School will inform parents/carers of any future incidents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Kelly', written over a light blue horizontal line.

P.Kelly
Headteacher

(KL-AA) Stranger Danger - 131120