

19 May 2021

Dear parents

Apologies for sending this letter in the evening, we were awaiting information and instruction from the police.

Today started on a happier note than when I last wrote to you yesterday. I know we were all so relieved to hear the news yesterday evening that Demetrace had arrived home.

The whole school community pulled together as a team in what was a very difficult and anxious day. Everyone demonstrated what Carterhatch Junior School is all about - family. We are all proud and privileged to work at this school with you and your children.

All of our school community was using the Police social media yesterday to widely publicise the information, so as many people as possible could be made aware that Demetrace was missing. Thanks go to all the parents who were posting such supportive and helpful comments. Some comments, however, are pure speculation and as such, they are unhelpful. The Police have been in contact with us to advise us not discuss or comment as they are investigating and actively pursuing all areas of inquiry to determine exactly what happened. Enfield and Haringey Police have just issued a [press release](#).

Of course, we send our heartfelt thoughts to Demetrace's whole family as they deal with the trauma of yesterday. The school will continue to support the family in the next few days and on behalf of them, we would like to thank you all again for your thoughts and good wishes. We did hear that, when news broke that Demetrace had been found, loud cheering echoed around the Lytchet Estate. We were all moved to hear such heart-warming news.

We know that, of course, this incident might make you nervous and anxious. Class teachers have spoken to their classes to reassure them. However, you may decide to re-think arrangements on how your child travels to and from school. Some parents have already contacted us about their Year 5 and Year 6 children walking to and from school alone. We always advise that parents should consider the maturity and confidence of the child when making the decision to allow them to travel alone. It is also advisable that parents practise the route with their children and ensure they know basic but important instructions to guide them, such as using a zebra crossing, what to do if they feel scared or if they are approached by a stranger. In our PHSE lessons we do discuss this but would encourage all families to talk about this at home too.

As stated in the March newsletter all Years 3 and 4 pupils must be accompanied to and from school. From September 2021 our new policy will bring us into line with other schools, whereby only Year 6 pupils may walk home alone and this will only be if parents have told the school in advance.

Thank you for your continued support and good wishes.

Yours faithfully

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