

St Philip Westbrook
C of E Aided Primary School

St Philip's Centre
District Centre
Westbrook
Warrington
WA5 8UE

Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher

Tel: 01925 445391

12th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

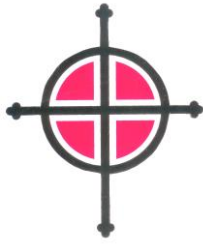
Just before 6pm last night I was made aware that travellers had gained access to our school playing fields and Mrs Wightman and I attended site immediately. I am pleased to report that staff had already contacted the police and the lockdown policy had been fully and successfully implemented. We were also joined by Mrs Power (Business Manager) and Councillor Guthrie (LA Governor).

The police attended site and we took advice from the LA and the police on what action was necessary. Councillor Guthrie and I joined the travellers on the school field for amicable discussions towards a resolution, and our thanks go to the police for escorting us in this duty. Mrs Wightman and Mrs Power held crucial discussions with the LA and police while our meeting on the playing fields took place. The travellers agreed with us that they would voluntarily vacate the field and were already on the move when the police enforced this with a Section 61 order.

I am very proud of how the team at school handled this situation, with the support of the police, in order that the matter was peacefully resolved within 3 hours. Having reviewed the incident this morning at school with Mrs Wightman and Councillor Parish we are satisfied that all procedures were followed and were robust, and that our Christian values took precedent in the successful outcome that was achieved. There has been no impact whatsoever to the operation of the school today, and in turn our families.

I wish to extend my thanks to Councillor Guthrie for her diplomacy and steadfastness, the police for their attendance and action and to Mrs Wightman, Mrs Power and our night caretaker for their unswerving commitment to the school. The safety of the pupils, staff, parents and visitors is one of our highest priorities and the school has been commended for its safeguarding and health and safety. Thank you to parents for the many messages of support we received during this exceptional circumstance.

Moving on to other pertinent matters of note, after the dreadful tragedy of Grenfell Tower I have recently contacted the LA, Architect and Contractor to seek assurances over the cladding on the new parts of our school building. Whilst the building is single storey, we remain committed to fire safety and we have been assured that the cladding at our school is safe and meets all necessary standards.



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We are also progressing with the library refurbishment and the Governing Body Resources Committee have approved expenditure for new furniture for this wonderful and, nowadays, unique facility. This coupled with the playground works already undertaken, and further works scheduled outside for the summer break, will be of benefit to all of our pupils and we hope they will enjoy them for many years to come.

Our thanks to their parents for the feedback regarding uniforms and we look forward to reviewing parental feedback from the homework survey recently issued. The views of parents are important to the school and the Governing Body and we hope this collaboration is welcomed by all parents and carers.

In closing, and on a high note I would like to commend the school as the statutory assessments and SATs results this year are excellent as they are significantly above Warrington and National averages at every phase of the school. A real achievement and my thanks go to all staff for their dedication and commitment to our children's education. We trust you will enjoy learning more about your own child's results when school reports are sent home on 17th July 2017.

With best wishes for all for the summer break,

Kate Strickland-Wright
Chair of Governors