

Newsham Primary School,

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Headteacher: Mrs. Anne-Marie Armstrong

20th May 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I'm sure many of you will know, there was an incident at Burns Avenue Play Park this week, during which a number of our pupils were bitten by a dog. Our first concern has been for the children involved in the attack, the emotional health of the other children present at the time and the fears expressed by some of our other pupils in school. As Headteacher, I have spent a lot of time this week supporting and reassuring the children, ably supported by our fantastic team of staff at Newsham. I have also been in regular contact with the Police and I hope parents and carers found their presence on our school premises this week, helpful to anyone wanting to ask questions or express concerns.

In terms of the way forward, the Police are obviously dealing with the investigation around this incident, staff will continue to support our children in school but due to the feelings of the children and my absolute determination to make our school site as safe as possible, from Monday, May 23rd NO DOGS (APART FROM GUIDE DOGS) WILL BE ALLOWED ON OUR SCHOOL PREMISES. This includes small dogs and puppies that can be carried and have previously been allowed onto school grounds in the arms of their owner.

Any parents or carers bringing a small dog or puppy to school when collecting children, will now need to wait on the pavement offsite alongside other dog owners (and if possible, not right next to the school gate where large numbers of children pass in a very short space of time). Please contact staff in the School Office or your child's class teacher if you need help making alternative collection arrangements for your child.

Thank-you for your support at a difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A-M Armstrong
Headteacher