Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to July’s Safeguarding letter

It’s a time for getting away from it all and enjoying the sunshine, and time with family, which means that we are possibly going to be visiting an unfamiliar place.

**We have put together a few tips for keeping your child safe over the summer holidays especially if holidaying abroad or somewhere unfamiliar:**

● Stay alert - ensure that your child is aware of the importance of staying alert, trusting their instincts and not talking to strangers. Encourage your child to walk away from situations that don’t feel right, and to avoid dangerous routes.

● Buddy-up - encourage your child to walk with their friends or as part of a group if possible, and ensure that they know they’re safer when they have company.

● Use safe routes - ensure that your child uses well-lit routes at night time and stays in busy areas. If your child does have to use a quieter route to return home, remind them of the importance of staying alert and encourage them to not walk alone with headphones in during night time hours.

● Phone-aware - make sure that your child knows your mobile phone number off by-heart, or has it written down, and empower them to feel confident calling 999 if they are the victim of a crime or in any danger . If you are abroad help to familiarise them with the local area, emergency service contact numbers and safe routes home. Make sure that they have full phone charge before going out.

● Be open - it’s important to create an open dialogue with your child about safety outside the home and any potential dangers that they might face. Being open, and listening to concerns that your child might have can also encourage them to be more confident about discussing their concerns.

● Teach your child to stay in touch - you may wish to encourage your child to inform you of changes in plans, for example, if they have agreed with you that they’re going to stay in one specific area but decide to travel to another area

● Who to reach out to in an emergency if you don’t have your phone - teach your child who they can go to in an emergency, for example, is there a security guard nearby, or another adult who could help e.g a customer help desk in a supermarket.

We will potentially have record temperatures this year so it goes without saying that hats and sunscreen are the order of the day and if you can encourage your child to get into the habit of carrying a bottle of water around , and maybe if parents keep a six-pack of water bottles in the car just in case.

Finally please remember that car windows up on a hot day is a serious hazard for pets and children.

**Take Care - Have Fun ! See you all back in September 😊**

Kind Regards

Andrew Grant -DSL

**Summer Sun and going away on holiday.**