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27th March 2017,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The summer months are nearly upon us and it is during these light days that parents often encourage their children to walk to and from school alone. The NSPCC provides some helpful advice on this overleaf.

It is extremely important that our children wherever possible do not walk alone, it is much better to walk in twos. Children must be competent in crossing the road and be reminded about talking to strangers. From time to time we do hear upsetting information regarding children being approached by strangers. Please ensure you talk to your child to give them the necessary knowledge to walk to and from school.

Please ensure your permission/authorisations are up to date in the school office regarding:

1. Giving permission for your child to walk home after school on their own.
2. Giving permission for your child to walk home after school if they have taken part in an extra-curricular club on their own.

Heads of Schools have been in classes today to remind our children of staying safe at all time.

Please continue to talk to your children about road safety and stranger danger so we can all work together to support their welfare.

Ready or not?

Our top tips to help prepare your child for going out alone.

Talk about the risks

Talk to your child early on about staying safe. How would they cross the road safely? What would your child do if they were approached by a stranger? Or if they were being bullied?

Make sure they're happy

Take the time to talk to your child, listen to them and check that they're happy to do things on their own. Don't make your child do something they're not happy with.

Set the boundaries

Be clear about any places you don't want your child to go. Be willing to explain your decision so that your child understands your concerns.

Do a trial run

Let your child take the lead when you're out together. Only correct them if they do something that puts them at risk.

Give them a chance to shine

Let your child show you they can be trusted. If they keep to the curfew and rules you set, you'll feel more confident about letting them do other things independently.

Not ready? Don't feel pressured.

Your child might insist that they'll be OK when they're out alone. But if you're still unsure, don't feel pressured. You need to be satisfied your child can make wise decisions on their own – even if they're with a sibling. It's easy to become separated or lost if they have an argument.