

30<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### **A message from your local Constabulary.....**

It has come to my attention that information has quickly got round that there is a white van targeting children in and around the Long Eaton area. This is not the case. Whilst it is always a good idea to reinforce stranger danger when the nights get darker, as far as the police are concerned any reference to a white van abducting or harming our children over the last few days or weeks is just rumour.

As the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant at Long Eaton I am pleased to answer any questions concerning this.

I am also sending out a press release to support this message.

Yours Faithfully

Chris Waters

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### **And now your school.....**

The Police and Education Authorities have a response procedure in place if a critical incident occurs in or around a school. This involves phone calls that are directed to the Head teacher, who is then charged with making the community aware of any potential risk. Can I assure you that I did not receive any phone call this past week or indeed in the past year. Any incident that may or may not have occurred elsewhere recently has not been flagged. You can draw your own conclusions from that I'm sure.

Now may be a suitable time for us to reflect upon how we, as individuals, respond to information offered from questionable sources...do we pass it on? Or treat it with caution? Parents and children have been unnecessarily upset by these rumours. The good name of your school, or indeed myself, has been undermined by unfounded gossip.

**The safety of your children is our paramount concern in everything we do and I find it extremely disappointing that this trust has been undermined by members of our own community.**

We continue to remind our children and staff how to stay safe and secure in school. You can help us by: ensuring that you close any gates/doors that you pass through; reporting to Reception when wishing to collect your child or on any other matter; ensuring that your child is appropriately supervised at the start and end of the school day and that you continue to support us in educating each other about managing our safety and security.

Our community is so strong because we look out for each other. We must continue to be vigilant and positive. Retreating behind eight foot fences and impenetrable security gates and escorting children around school will not give our children the sense of empowerment and independence that is essential for their personal development, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely