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*Compassion, Joy, Perseverance, Respect*

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

**CLASS TRIP VOLUNTEERS**

We have been contacted by several parents who have kindly volunteered to assist on school trips, and we are always most grateful for this support. Those parents who have assisted in the past will be able to confirm for you how thorough we are about ensuring that all the children's needs are catered for, and all safeguarding procedures are followed to ensure that your child can enjoy a fantastic day out, and remain safe and secure at all times.

Where we have advised that we have no need for further adult supervisors on an upcoming class trip, some parents have informed us of their intent to join their child (or follow the group around) regardless.

Mr Ming and I have spoken with staff from Hunton and other local schools to enquire as to their experience of the above. Feedback has concluded that the risk to the safeguarding of the group as a whole, increases significantly in these situations. Staff felt increased pressure to ensure that they knew at all times where the additional parent or parents were, their proximity to other children (for whom they were a stranger), as well as having to keep checking that this parents' child was not wandering off to the parent. Staff also reported feeling more pressure to keep an eye on the children who had family following, stating that they didn't want to assume the child had gone to the parent, when they had in fact left the group for an alternative reason.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us. As a school, we are appealing to you to please not join the class on the train ride, or follow the group around. While we completely understand your intention of keeping your child safe, you are in fact jeopardising the safety of the whole class. As this is a safeguarding concern it will most likely result in a last-minute cancellation and huge disappointment all round.

We want your child to enjoy the 'magic' of a school trip, and feel proud of their independence as they step out of their comfort zone and experience something new. Please trust that your child will be well taken care of during a class trip, and know that should you choose to not have your child attend, that they will be well taken care of at school, and fun events planned to make their day special too.

If you wish to speak with us regarding any concerns you may have, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Makey  
Headteacher