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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and eventful start to the academic year so we can hardly believe that half term break is here already! Please take a look at the half termly newsletter, which will be sent out separately today, to get a flavour of the wide range of learning opportunities we have all enjoyed.

We hope you have all been able to make appointments for the parent/carer consultation evenings which are planned for the week after the half term break. If you still do not have an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a time. We look forward to seeing you all.

Our Rockmount Friends and Community group (who are the school 'PTA' which every parent/carer is automatically a member of) and the Parent/Carer Forum representatives held a joint meeting last Friday to plan forward for community events such as the Winter Fair. We are a school with a strong community ethos and we really need more parents/carers to get involved with this core group to add strength to our potential for organising fundraising and social events across the school. Please take a look at the school website which gives a little more information about both of these groups and get in touch if you can offer your help.

This year we are working towards the British Council International Award which encourages our children to have a global awareness in relation to their learning. Our International Award was launched on Wednesday as part of the Black History Community Event, showcasing the diverse curriculum we offer. The theme for this year, 'Saluting our Sisters', pays homage to women who had contributions ignored, ideas appropriated and voices silenced. Thank you to the many families who came along and enjoyed the event.

We want to make you aware of a game called 'Rainbow Friends' that has come to our attention. This game is freely available on the platform Roblox, and there are also video compilations of it on YouTube. 'Rainbow Friends' is described as an immersive horror game which revolves around an unknown child and classmates who are kidnapped on a school trip to Oddworld Park. In this game, players engage in a five-day loop filled with challenges while evading menacing enemies. It's important to note that the game is recommended for ages 10 and up. Given the distress some children have experienced due to the game's content; we strongly encourage you to discuss any concerns or issues arising from this game with your child.



There is a great deal in the news at the moment regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict. Our schools offer a safe environment in which to learn and work. The **DfE have communicated** with schools to provide advice and to recommend means of support for children and families who may be affected by the events.

Some of you may find this DfE information and recommendations useful to support any conversations at home:

Hamas is a proscribed terrorist organisation, and it is illegal to encourage support for them. This would also be contrary to the British values that schools and colleges should promote and embody.

To support senior leaders and teachers manage these discussions, there are several reputable organisations that offer resources to teach about this sensitive topic in a balanced way and challenge extreme and hateful narratives. The Department's [Educate Against Hate website](#) provides a range of resources to support with challenging discrimination and intolerance. It also provides advice on how to respond where you have concerns.

We know that recent events will result in teachers being put in difficult positions at school, as children understandably ask questions and share their opinions. In some cases, children may have been exposed to false or inappropriate information outside of school, making the role of the teacher in responding to children even harder. As with other sensitive topics, teachers and staff will of course be using their judgement and expertise to navigate these discussions, in a way that maintains high standards of ethics and behaviour.

We know that young people may have a strong personal interest in these issues, which could lead to political activity. Schools and colleges should ensure that any political expression is conducted sensitively, meaning that it is not disruptive and does not create an atmosphere of intimidation or fear for their peers and staff. This includes not only where behaviour appears to celebrate or glorify violence, but also any expression of views that feels targeted against specific groups or stigmatises others.....

There are trusted external bodies, which can provide support:

- ***To assist, [the Community Security Trust](#) have published several educational resources, including those that support understanding and identifying antisemitism. For concerns regarding antisemitism, the Community Security Trust provide a national emergency number which should be used to report antisemitic attacks, alongside calling 999: 0800 032 3263.***
- ***For anti-Muslim hatred, [Tell Mama](#) provides a confidential support service, with their website providing a number of different ways to report anti-Muslim incidents.***
- ***The DfE has a Counter-Extremism online referral form, which allows for extremism concerns to be reported directly to the Department. [Report Extremism in Education - Start](#).***
- ***For anyone in the UK who feels impacted by the ongoing conflict, [Victim Support is available online](#) on 0808 168 9111 (free and available 24/7). We ask that you do whatever you can to actively provide Jewish and all young people with the reassurance they need and respond swiftly to any incidents. We know that you will work to ensure that your schools and colleges remain calm, safe and supportive environments, where everyone can thrive in safety and respect.***

Croydon Local Authority have also offered information to support school communities which you will find as an attachment to this letter.

We are delighted that the Arena will be fitted with an All-Weather Sports and Play surface during the half term break. This follows a period of fundraising by the RFC through the Winter and Summer

Fairs, cake sales, uniform sales etc as well as generous personal donations from some of our parents. A special thank you to one of our parents, Tom Hiles, for donating his corporate charity funding to us in order to get this completed.

We wish you all a very enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 31st October (Monday 30th October is a staff INSET Day).

Kind regards,

Helen Carvall