A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

Saturday 28th November 2020,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am aware that some of you are extremely disturbed and upset by the man who was seen around the school perimeter allegedly taking photographs and as parents, you have every right to be concerned.

We were alerted to this man with his camera around the school perimeter about a year ago and at that time myself and another teacher walked around the school and found him. We talked to him about the appropriateness of him taking photographs. He told us about his previous life as a photographer. We walked him home and reported it to the Police. It was not our place to question him or to remove his camera from him because as you have said we do not know if he is harmless.

We have not seen the man around school for about a year and it has not been reported to us since November 2019. However, in situations like this, we need your help and support. We can only monitor the gates and fences that we can see from within school so I am asking that if you see him around the school grounds, please contact school immediately so we can call the Police. I would urge you not to approach him.

I know that some of you have seen the man in different locations to school and believe he has taken photographs of your children. If this is the case, then you need to contact the Police and alert them to this situation.

As you know, we do not allow anyone to take photographs of children without permission from parents or carers and then we closely monitor where and how these photographs are used. We do not even allow you to take photographs of children at plays just in case you get another child in them by accident.

We would never allow anyone to take photographs of your children from outside of the school grounds as keeping them safe is our highest priority. We would never not act on a situation like this.

On Friday, following the concerns raised on Social Media the previous evening, I contacted the Police and reported the incident. The Police have taken this very seriously. I will contact them this coming week for an update.

Again, if you see him around the school perimeter please call school immediately and we will alert the Police and deal with the situation.

Thank you for your understanding and patience in such a worrying time. If you need to come and discuss anything with me then please do.

Mrs Tomlinson

Headteacher