Dear parent,

As you know, here at Newcastle Primary School we care deeply about our children and have arrangements in place to promote the safety of all our pupils. One of the ways we have chosen to do this is by actively teaching our children about how to keep safe using the NSPCC Keeping Safe programme that is delivered throughout the school. The aim of the programme is to help children develop the knowledge and skills to keep them safe from all forms of abuse and bullying.

This programme will be more effective if you, as parents and carers are well informed, work in partnership with us and take the opportunities that arise to have age appropriate conversations with your children about keeping safe. Each term your child will view a Keeping Safe assembly in their classroom and will be taught three lessons about keeping safe. Each lesson has been designed for children of different ages and will build on what your child has learned before. Each lesson has a homework activity which will help you talk to your child about what they have been learning.

The NSPCC have talked to parents about the programme and were told that parents would like to know when the lessons are being taught and what the key messages are. I am therefore writing to let you know that this term your child will be learning about **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**. As your child is in Primary 1 the aims of the lessons are that they:

1. Will know the names of feelings such as worried, excited, nervous and afraid. We want children to develop their emotional language and become familiar with a variety of terms other than just happy or sad.
2. Will understand that hands are not for hurting. They will know that it’s normal to feel angry at times. They will know what to do if someone hurts them, when to tell and when not to tell.
3. Will understand the importance of telling someone in school if they are feeling sad, worried, nervous or afraid. They will know when to tell and how to tell.

We appreciate that many of the issues dealt with in the Keeping Safe programme are sensitive but as a school we believe they will help keep our children safe. We hope that the programme will also give you opportunities to talk to your children about keeping safe. **The programme will have a greater impact if we all work together.**

Should you require any other information please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or myself.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Stewart

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(Designated Teacher for Child Protection)