

4th February, 2010

READING CHILD ASSAULT PROGRAMME – KEY STAGE 1

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to inform you that NCC has been able to bring the CAP project to our children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Two years ago, older children took part in the project, which they found both enjoyable and informative.

The focus for this project is to keep children 'safe, strong and free'. Sadly, we live in a world where there are many threats to our children's safety, including the potential for assault by a known or unknown adult. As adults, we all do our utmost to keep children safe from such threats, but we can't do it all. Along with our actions, it is important we teach children how to recognise dangerous situations and what action to take when they feel threatened or unsafe. CAP teaches children what to do if they are ever faced with such a scenario.

The project aims to prevent bullying and verbal, physical, sexual abuse and neglect. It is delivered by suitably trained staff who are sensitive to the needs and age of the children and is delivered through a series of workshops over 3 days. Because of the sensitivities associated with the subject matter, training is provided for staff and clear protocols are agreed for all involved. Also, before the programme starts, a session is held for parents – at this time, parents will be given a clear overview of the project and have opportunities to discuss the issues and ask any questions which they may have; parents also have the opportunity to meet all the CAP staff who will be working with their children (all of whom will have full clearance through the Criminal Records Bureau).

CAP originally began in the USA and is well established in Devon – see <http://www.devoncap.org.uk> for further background information.

I was incredibly impressed with the project when KS2 took part – this topic is hugely difficult to tackle yet it was presented in a highly sensitive and appropriate way – empowering children without frightening them. It is my belief that in order to keep our children completely safe, we need to give them the tools to deal with any threats to their well-being – CAP will give them these tools, which, of course, will give them a good headstart in life.

The dates for the sessions will be:

Staff workshop	8 th Feb
Parents workshop	9 th Feb @ 2.00pm in Indigo classroom
Red Class	22, 23, 24 th Feb
Orange Class	4,5,8 th March
Yellow Class	9, 10, 11 th March

I do hope you will support this project and I hope you are able to come along and find out more at the session for parents.

Best wishes,