



Growing and Learning Together in God's Love

St Mark's CofE Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

The NSPCC's "*Speak out. Stay safe.*" programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their "*Speak out. Stay safe.*" programme. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting **age-appropriate assemblies in KS1 and KS2 on Tues 23rd Jan 2018** as well as **class workshops for Years 5 and 6 on 1st and 2nd Feb.**

If you have concerns about how your child may respond to these events, please speak to your child's teacher. This may be because of past experiences or other reasons.

What is the "*Speak out. Stay safe.*" programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

Finally, as a charity, the NSPCC can only provide these vital resources thanks to the financial support and generosity of their supporters. St Mark's has chosen to support the valuable work of the NSPCC by taking part in a fundraising event, and I would really value your support and encouragement. More information on how you can support their work will follow their visit to our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Applegate

Head Teacher: Mr Charles Applegate
Deputy Head: Mrs Claire Cooper
Assistant Head: Mrs Nicola Ford
Assistant Head: Mrs Rebekah Alsey

