

## Keep Safe

We have become aware that a number of children under the age of 11 from all three of our primary schools in Ham and Petersham are out playing on their own after school and have been involved in activities which are putting them in dangerous situations, for example playing by the riverside or by playing with much older children. This is at a time when the number of reported incidents of children being approached by strangers is on the rise in Richmond. Please note the following advice which has been agreed by the headteachers of the three primary schools:

- In agreement with our local secondary schools we recommend that children should not be out playing on school nights (Sunday to Thursday) as they should be at home reading, completing homework, preparing for the next day and resting.
- We believe that primary aged children should not be playing out on their own unsupervised for more than 10-20 minutes, enough time to visit the local shop
- If your child makes their own way home from school they should go directly home and there should be a responsible person to greet them when they get home.
- If children go out to play alone you should know who they are with, they should stay within sight of your home and they should be making contact with you every 20 minutes.
- If your child goes to play at another child's home you should ensure the parent of the other child is taking full responsibility for your child and that they know where your child is.