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Dear Parents

You may well be aware of the fire in Northwood reported in the Sentinel over the weekend and on the news this morning. Firstly, we wish to offer our thoughts and prayers to those families involved in this serious incident from within our local community. We hope and pray that there will be positive outcomes for all involved.

We are aware that pupils and families may well have been affected both directly and indirectly by this incident and we are working with relevant authorities to ensure we can offer the most appropriate advice and support to those who need it. If your child has been affected in any way, then you are best placed to support your child by talking to them at home in the place they feel most secure. The Educational Psychologist supporting our area offers this advice to parents:

- Talk to your child honestly, keeping just to the facts.
- Stress that fires like this are extremely rare and they do not need to worry about this happening to them.
- Reassure your child that they are safe, secure and loved.
- Emphasise that the people involved in the fire are receiving the best treatment possible.
- Continue life as normal, answering any questions honestly as they may crop up.
- Seek further advice if you feel your child is showing undue signs of distress.

Of course, staff at school will also be following the same advice for any children affected and will continue to offer the high levels of care, guidance and support that is such a strength of our school. Our community is a strong one and I am sure locals from across the area will already be offering support to each other at this distressing time. We are proud to be part of that community.

At this stage, we have no further information to share with parents but will keep you updated if this changes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Williamson
Headteacher