

Grazebrook Primary School Lordship Road, London N16 0QP Telephone: 0208 802 4051

> GBoffice@newwavefederation.co.uk Executive Headteacher: Ms Nicole Reid Headteacher: Mrs Katie Beecroft

Tuesday 17th October 2023

Dear Grazebrook families,

I am writing to you regarding the extremely upsetting and shocking events which are unfolding in Israel and Gaza. I am sure you are feeling the same upset and concern about the devastation and loss of life which we are witnessing.

Tragedies such as this transcend geographic borders and our thoughts are with all colleagues, children and families who have been impacted by these unspeakable events. At this difficult time, I want to reassure you that we remain committed to providing a safe and secure place for learning and work where all members of our community feel included and respected. We ask that we all continue to work together to be sensitive to, and mindful of, the feelings and experiences of others and be alert to incidences of intolerance and stereotyping.

I am aware that this conflict is at the fore of the news agenda and so pupils may be exposed on a significant scale. To this end, it is important that pupils are reassured and have an opportunity to ask questions. I ask that you encourage conversation, give reassurance and, most importantly, monitor your child's use of the media, including social media, over the coming weeks as many distressing images have and are continuing to be posted on a range of platforms.

The school will be holding assemblies this week to support children to understand the conflict. You may find this <u>CBBC Newsround article</u> a useful resource to talk through what is currently happening with your child at home or use <u>this article</u> for advice for your child if they are upset by the news.

Should you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, or you would like to make us aware of any relevant information, I ask that you contact your child's teacher or phase leader. As always, staff will monitor pupils and will be sure to contact you should we have any concerns in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Katie Beecroft

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Headteacher