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Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Grove Partnership, we are committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of all our children, families and the wider community. As part of this commitment, our school has joined the “Let’s Be Blunt” Pledge, a national prevention-led initiative that encourages the use of safer, rounded-tip kitchen knives in homes and community settings.

The campaign is based on a simple message: “Remove the Point. Reduce the Harm.” By encouraging families and organisations to consider safer knife designs, the initiative aims to reduce the risk of serious injury while maintaining the functionality needed for everyday food preparation.

Research and data highlighted by Let’s Be Blunt show that:

- 46% of sharp instrument homicides involve kitchen knives, making them the most commonly used sharp instrument in these incidents.
- 76% of domestic homicides involving sharp instruments are committed using kitchen knives.
- In 2024, 109 lives were lost through incidents involving kitchen knives, demonstrating the importance of preventative action.

The Let’s Be Blunt campaign does not suggest that safer knives alone will solve knife crime. Rather, it encourages practical steps alongside education, awareness and responsible knife storage to help reduce risk and promote safer communities.

As a school community, we have taken steps to remove pointed kitchen knives and replace them with rounded-tip alternatives across all our sites. This includes our school kitchens, staff rooms and food technology areas. We encourage families to:

- Consider whether rounded-tip kitchen knives may be a suitable option within your home.
- Store all knives securely and out of reach of young children.
- Take responsibility for knowing where household knives are stored and who has access to them.
- Check regularly that all household knives are accounted for and, if a knife is found to be missing, report this to the police immediately and make the school aware where appropriate.
- Talk openly with children and young people about safety, responsibility and making positive choices.

Many rounded-tip knife options are available at relatively low cost. The Grove Partnership purchased its knives through Argos, where products such as the Viners 4 Piece Squared Tip Knife Set are available for around £15, making this a practical and affordable option for many households.

Alongside this initiative, pupils across all Grove Partnership schools will continue to receive age-appropriate education focused on personal safety, risk awareness, healthy decision-making and where to seek support when they are worried about themselves or others.

This will include information about emotional wellbeing, mental health, self-harm awareness, and how to access help from trusted adults and support services.

We recognise that conversations around knife harm, mental health and self-harm can be difficult. Please remember that support is available. Staff across The Grove Partnership are here to listen, offer guidance and signpost families to appropriate services and resources where needed.

For further information, practical advice and resources, we encourage parents and carers to visit the Let's Be Blunt website: www.letsbeblunt.co.uk, which provides information about safer knife choices, responsible storage, safe disposal and the campaign pledge.

Thank you for supporting us in helping to create safer homes and communities for all children and young people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Bell," with a comma at the end.

Miss Bell
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Headteacher