



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**

**SCHOOL IN READING**

Headteacher: Mr A. Johnson  
BA, MSc, NPQH

81 Crescent Road,  
Reading, RG1 5SL  
0118 966 8065  
MERoffice@maidenерleghtrust.org  
www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk

22 June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am sure that you were shocked to hear about the tragic events in Forbury Gardens which led to the death of three people. Whilst our minds have been on the threat and difficulties around COVID, online learning and increasing our re-opening, this news of the reality of violence in a park less than a mile away from our school is utterly heart breaking. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of all those affected; we wish the injured a speedy recovery and the bereaved every comfort.

At 10am, year 10 and special provision students in school paused for a minute of silence. In doing this, we joined with the whole Reading community. Whilst the attack physically harmed a few, we all share a sense that this has been an attack on the whole community of which we are so proud. These are the words we used with students this morning:

*"We must come together and be determined that events like this will not make us afraid or fearful of one another. We will not give in to hatred. Instead we will choose to be tolerant, to accept and to love."*

Whilst we have all been shocked and distressed, most of us will be able to manage our feelings of grief and shock. We are aware however that some students and families may be particularly affected and need some additional support and help. If you or your child falls into this category please do seek out support

- i) If your child is struggling then please contact your child's head of year, via the school office
- ii) If you or your family require further help, advice or support, please contact the Reading Borough emergency helpline on **0118 937 2080** (open until 8pm) .

We must stand strong with the entire Reading community in our shared loss but also in a shared determination to pull together and to support each other at this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher