

Mrs L Keogh
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Monday 8th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please be aware that an **Oak Processionary Moth** caterpillar nest has been discovered between Harrow Close – the road that leads to Ellingham Primary School and Merritt garden traffic lights. It's on the right side on the second tree next to the pavement when you face towards the lights.

It has been reported to the council and Forestry department. The advice from the Forestry Commission is to not approach or touch the nests or caterpillars and, in particular, keep children and pets away from the Oak trees.

The caterpillars are a potential threat to the health of oak trees, people and animals. The caterpillars have tiny hairs which can cause itchy skin, rashes, eye and throat irritation and occasionally breathing difficulties in both people and animals. These hairs collect in the nests and are so tiny they can be blown about by the wind.

To minimise health risks:

- Do not touch or approach oak processionary moth caterpillars or their nests
- Do not let children or animals touch or approach the caterpillars or nests
- Do not try and remove the caterpillars or nests yourself

Please can all families take particular care to ensure that contact with the caterpillars and their nests is avoided.

Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,



Lisa Keogh
Headteacher