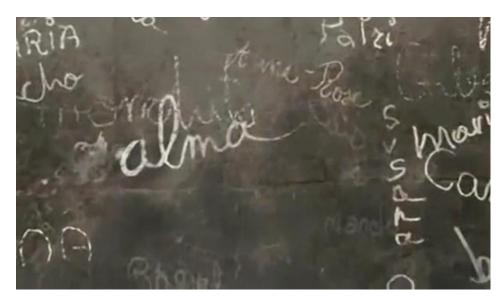
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CHILDREN ERASED LIKE CHALK



NAMES: Chalk board showing the names of children who have disappeared along Chancery Lane, Preston.

Report by Lucy Brett

Numerous children have been disappearing in recent weeks along Chancery Lane in Preston though police are yet to establish the reasons for this.

On Thursday 8th January the first child, Amelia Jones, was reported missing by her parents at approximately 4pm. They had been out shopping and Amelia had asked to visit her favourite sweet shop, The Sugar Boy. Since then, 14 other children (boys and girls aged between 7 and 12) have been reported missing in the same area.

Upon reviewing CCTV footage of the top end of Chancery Lane,

police have now confirmed that the cherished local attraction — Charlie's Chalk Board — has played a fundamental part in these children's last seen moments.

"That chalk board has been in this town for generations", explains Mr Hunter, a local barber who works near the scene. "Everyone writes their name on it and has done as long as my shop has been here" he added.

It would appear that the chalk board is a loved local scene, where many children and adults alike enjoy graffitiing their signatures. Kent police can now confirm though that the board has aroused suspicion surrounding the mysterious circumstances of these disappearances.

The latest child to have disappeared along this stretch of street is Alma Jenkins, an eight year old pupil who attends St Joseph's Primary School in Preston.

Alma's parents, Don and Jo Jenkins, were too traumatised to comment. They are tirelessly searching the streets and local businesses close to where Alma was last seen.

"We just want Alma found and home safe" pleaded a family friend, who wishes to remain anonymous. "She is such a sweet little girl, why anyone would want to take her or harm her is beyond us" she concluded.

Detective Sergeant Jamie Schofield was at the scene this afternoon and divulged that forensic teams have cordoned off the area and are conducting further investigations into traces of DNA found close by.

It is not clear what will happen in the coming days here although calls have been made for the Prime Minister to impose a further lockdown within Kent until a reason for these disappearances can be established. In the meantime, parents are advised to take extra care of their children and not leave them unattended under any circumstance.

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