



Jennett's Park CE Primary School

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Letter from Mrs Stevens (CEO of the Bonitas Academy) and Mrs Rachel Philips (Chair of Governors) to all:

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the partnership between Jennett's Park and Ranelagh School, encompassed within the Bonitas Trust, enters another new academic year, on behalf of the trustees I would like to share some of the detail of the work our two schools have been doing in recent months.

As we say to all those who visit Ranelagh on Open Evening, if we want pupils to enjoy a really successful start to their time at secondary school, then it is important to do our homework by finding out what, and how, they have been learning at primary school. Working alongside one another in a multi-academy trust is an excellent framework for developing that understanding, and this has been a key part of the collaboration between our two schools. Staff at Ranelagh have had the opportunity to meet with colleagues at Jennett's Park and to observe them at work in their classrooms. This has contributed to valuable ongoing discussion about what we can and should be expecting of pupils once they move on to year 7. Both schools also share the benefit of a professional tutor whose role is to support the development of classroom practice. This provides consistency of practice and expectations which is always valuable.

Another area of collaboration which has been established relates to the teaching of RE. As part of the RE Ambassadors programme for two years running, students in years 10 and 12 at Ranelagh have visited the classrooms of pupils in year 3 and year 5 in order to teach lessons on their chosen RE topic. As part of this process, students were observed in action by Jennett's Park class teachers, and received some excellent feedback. Pupils from both schools found the experience valuable and enjoyable and I am pleased to say that this programme is set to continue this year.

Following on from the success of this pupil focused initiative, this term sees the launch of a reading mentor scheme in which a team of student in the sixth form at Ranelagh are volunteering to visit Jennett's Park on a weekly basis in order to undertake paired reading. The volunteers are receiving training from teachers at Jennett's Park and, in addition to helping the pupils with whom they read, the scheme has the added benefit of developing the confidence and leadership skills of the team of volunteers. Who knows, we may even be nurturing the next generation of teachers!

In spite of the fact that Bonitas remains for the moment a small trust, there has been plenty of opportunity for the two schools to work closely together to make the most of its infrastructure. In 2019 Bonitas IT Services took over responsibility for maintaining and developing Jennett's Park's IT network. Over the course of recent months the system has been significantly upgraded and is now fit to support the ambitious



plans in place to develop the use of technology across the school. Similarly, the Finance and HR teams of the two schools have been subject to some carefully planned rationalisation. In short, we have been keen to optimise the use of the skills in both schools and to identify the sort of efficiencies which are part and parcel of membership of a trust.

The work of governors has been an additional area of successful collaboration. Following his work as interim Headteacher in 2017/2018, Mr Williams was invited to join Jennett's Park governing body. The insight he developed whilst working alongside the senior team enables him to make a genuine contribution as a governor and this year he is taking particular responsibility for monitoring the school's work to support Pupil Premium provision.

Finally for this update, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working alongside Mrs Savage. Her knowledge and expertise of primary education has been and will continue to be a great asset to the trust as it grows and develops. Furthermore, I do believe that through our work together it has been possible for all of us to establish a clearer vision of a child's journey through school from 0 to 19.

Yours sincerely
B Stevens

With the new academic year now in full swing I wanted to pause and take a moment to reflect on the journey of our school in the last year. You will have read from Mrs Stevens the importance of the Bonitas Trust to Jennett's Park. I'd also like to emphasize the value that we as a school have been to the Trust in gaining clear insight to the primary education sector and how jointly we can improve key areas such as transition to secondary school and encouraging challenging learning at all key stages. I expect this to continue and develop further over the coming terms.

I personally feel privileged to have been the Chair of governors at Jennett's Park school during its journey over the last 2 years when such great progress has been made in many areas including the consistency of attainment of pupils, stability of the teaching staff, pupil attendance, new outdoor facilities, improved communication and of course the appointment of our new head teacher, Mrs Savage. There has been a lot of change and great strides have been made in so many areas for the benefit of all pupils, staff, parents and governors, we should celebrate the progress and look forward to gaining the recognition of this in the external assessments of Ofsted and SIAMS which are both due shortly. These are important times for Jennett's Park school to gain the recognition it deserves and supporting both our Ofsted and SIAMS reviews as either a pupil, parent, governor or member of staff is critical, we will be letting you know in the coming weeks how you can support us during this time.

I'd like to thank all staff, governors and parents for their support to the school and especially Mrs Savage on her first year at Jennett's Park and the progress and change she has driven. My term of office as Chair of governors has come to an end and I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Claire Tootill has been appointed as your new chair. Claire has a great deal to offer the school and governing body through her working experience, knowledge of the school, involvement with the PTA and her insight of the primary education at Jennett's Park. I wish her and the school success for the future and as a Trustee on the Bonitas board I will be keeping an involvement with the school and an eye on the successes that I am sure will come.

With best wishes for the future,

Mrs Rachel Phillips

