



Jennett's Park CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised I said lines of communication would stay open so for the first time in a long time I will email you on the weekend! Email into secretary@ as always. You might want to sit down with a cup of tea or coffee as this is a long email. I'm not writing to you in my normal formal Mrs Savage tone. This is me Liz Savage the proud to be Headteacher at Jennett's Park.

Firstly I just wanted to officially say thank you from the bottom of my very humble heart for the messages of love, support and respect shown to us as a team here at Jennett's Park. My staff are really appreciative of it. We came into teaching to make a difference. We will try to reach out to you and make it as easy as possible give us time.

It has been an incredible / absurd/ frightening/ exhausting week for everyone in the country. There are tough messages to give and sadly contradictory or late or even fake news flying about. I pride myself in that our team has gotten you updates as fast as we could type or photocopy. The phones have been nonstop, emails coming in and extra meetings held. We were tired as a staff by Wednesday, exhausted by Thursday and on pure adrenaline by Friday.

I also really appreciate that when a parent has been stressed, and not acting at their best, they have taken the message to compose themselves and try again. We understand it is hard for you. We really do. We are there for you. It is hard for all of us at this time and we need to remember we are human beings not just human doings.

The next few months are going to be very difficult for a lot of people but also at different times. We know full well as a team that we may have just waved goodbye to some of you forever.

I know some of you are dealing with children who are coping with a plethora of emotions in their small bodies as you are too. Some to be honest are joyous. Some already scared. Some relieved. Some annoyed. Your emotional and physical wellbeing are high on our list as always.

We will think of themes we can all enjoy together over the next few months- window wonderland is the title and our first week is Rainbows.

My staff know why we are doing this, but I thought I would write to you to let you know why too. I think the main reason my team has gelled together so clearly is because of 3 things- communication, the Values we share and trust.

Our staff are putting ourselves on the line to look after our colleagues who are key workers. Not just because we are paid but because we want to. The definition of who a key worker is was given to us very late on Thursday night. I've already set up a link if you think you fit into that category. The message is if you can look after children at home then do so. We will help anyone who can't who comes into that category.



Over the next week or so my team will be working on shifts in school as a 'skeleton crew' - although this brings in images of us as a bunch of Halloween dressed pirates. But those not in school working at home to prepare even more things to help for you to do.

We are not on holiday as one person unkindly suggested to me. That person heard the sharp edge of my tongue. Do let it be known Mrs Savage is sometimes quite sharp to unthinking or rude people.

Communicate to us via the Secretary email, someone will monitor that at all points. Tell us what you need and we will try to get that out. It might not always be personal one-to-one responses, we don't have capacity for that. It may be your solution is in a daily briefing or summed up in a weekly communication or newsletter.

Communication is two-way though. Please do your part in communication by sharing and reading what we send out. If anybody you know says they don't receive emails, tell them to sign up to sQuid. Tell them to read the emails. Tell them to look at the website. Tell them to sign up to marvellous me. And tapestry. Tell them they need to do their part. And be proactive.

That leads me to more of my personal thoughts on why we are doing this. Many of you chose us as we are your local school. We serve our community as a Christian school. Our values are laid out clearly to unite us whatever you believe in as the Rainbow Promise. It is that that glues us together and gives us strength. I know you know them but the Rainbow is - Love, Honesty, Respect, Peace, Forgiveness, Patience, Support, Kindness & Joy.

Think now of the opposite words- hate, lying, intolerance, war, punishment, impatience and resistance, hindrance, cold-heartedness and misery. They stick in the mind. Say them or think them. They sound awful. Individually each word is not too bad but if we're honest we've each dabbled in a few at some points. I know I can be at times intolerant (mainly at those who are panic buying, but that's another email entirely). But in my opinion they are collectively in my opinion evil.

We use the rainbow to promote good. Help us and we can share good things.

Lastly, my staff trust. I am humbled to say that my staff are dedicated, kind, hard-working and not to boast the best team I've ever worked with in over 20 years' experience. Why is that? They have a lot of trust in me, in the future we will have but also in you.

Please over the next few months show them that you trust them as well. You can do this in many ways but the easiest is saying it, showing it & feeling it. To link back to my first point if you feel like trust is dropping communicate that to us with what exactly you want us to change. Then maybe that you have a solution. There may be times when we don't accept that solution, but that is what trust is about. You have chosen Jennett's Park as your school. Trust us.

So, to sum up:

1. Communication is key for us to thrive and survive
2. Rainbow promise unites us for good and to do good
3. Trust us and show it.

We have been compared to phoenixes before. We will rise through this my beautiful school and come out shinier and brighter than before.

It is my duty to protect you and our children. It is also my humble honour to do it.

All the best



Liz Savage

