



Jennett's Park CE Primary School

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Dear parents and carers,

I write to you again briefly to expand on my message from last night. I write to you with honesty and respect at the front of my message. I joke that I'm my most honest in the morning before my cornflakes and I'm in a strangely pensive mood so here we go:

Most Bracknell schools are shut. We are not in competition or being blasé. We can for the moment staff for the school to be open. We are fortunate not to be ill at the moment. That may change. Education changes lives for good. But the new situation is very difficult for all to manage. Again in all honesty, we are clearly as anxious and stressed as anyone else in our country. For ourselves, for our families and for you and your children's safety. My staff have clearly said to me though we know we should help those who need us right now by remaining open.

The pandemic has left us in a very difficult situation. Where my staff have to be asked in their holidays 'do you feel safe at work?' But the most odd is where many sensible parents have contacted me to explain they could educate at home and yet understand we can't officially let you. This is ridiculous: We all know fewer bodies in school will reduce risks.

We would ask this of you: if you have the capacity to educate from home for the next fortnight please let us know. Email in. Some have already told us of their intention to do so and we know how heartfelt your decision has been. Many of you have chosen this as you are vulnerable but not 'critically extremely vulnerable' or you are in a bubble with others who are.

We hope that by offering this this way we can continue to help as many people who urgently need us.

A greater number of you have told us you have to educate at home as you are isolating as you and your children have covid right now. None of these cases are in school at the moment so thank you for doing your part and helping us. We wish you good health.

Dual teaching is never an educators first choice and we will have the unenviable task of juggling teaching online and in person in our phases. We know we can do it and if we're not getting it right just give us some gentle feedback xx



Please be assured we will not actively pursue fining anyone who has chosen to not send their children in the next few weeks. That was never in our attendance policy unless all other methods were exhausted.

We will set work online for everyone not in school via Tapestry and seesaw as of tomorrow morning and send out details of online events and assemblies. That way we will say school is open, just not physically in the building for everyone.

We will review this after a fortnight and as always share our thoughts. The risk assessment will be sent out later today.

The government may indeed later on today / tomorrow/ this week force our hand into only remaining open for those who are children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable, if so I apologise for building your hopes for then needing to alter plans again. I am not a mind reader nor open to secrets - we will most likely discover together if that is the case.

We hope you understand our choice to offer this to serve as many in our community as possible those who urgently need us. We are here if you need us but if that can be from a distance then let us stay open as a school to you that way. Some may only need us a few days a week or even half days.

Some of you have no choice. Please understand we know full well that horrible tugging feeling on your heart when you are balancing your job and family.

Please trust us when we call you back to us, this will pass and we want you and your children with us. We have faith that God's love will help us to flourish and achieve through this for a safer and happier future.

Lastly love and respect to any frontline colleagues dealing with the pandemic. We notice and we offer support in any way we can.

Regards



Elizabeth Savage
Headteacher

