



# Jennett's Park CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Elizabeth Savage  
3 Tawny Owl Square,  
Jennett's Park, Bracknell RG12 8EB  
T: 01344 301269

[secretary@jennetts.bonitas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@jennetts.bonitas.org.uk)

**RE Communication from Mrs Savage re thank you's, waiting lists, SEND and a plea for help.**

4.11.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. For those who know me and those who have been with me on the journey for the past few years I sometimes write a long letter. Some kind people even say they enjoy my musings. Others say they just like the honesty! If you're short of time as we all are please skip to the end for some pleas for help.

I think of you a lot. Not just because I have a position leading as headteacher at Jennett's Park CE Primary but because of the great job you are doing with your wonderful and vibrant children. Everyone deserves a compliment and your children are super! I am so proud of the work we're doing as a school together living life in all its fullness.

You should know as a school we have so many compliments on how our children behave and interact with each other. Do they get it right all the time? No of course not. But it means a lot that you are supportive if children need consequences to help them reflect. That is not just our work but together knowing that there is nothing more important than getting on with family, friends and community- our Rainbow Promise. It lets us know we can start again.

I almost wrote in the summer about my heartbreak over the attacks and deaths of the poor children in Stockport. I wrote to my colleagues up north knowing how much that would pain me as an educator. I wanted to say now how grateful I am for our community that it is woven together and that deeply cares. We have many different faiths, heritages, languages and types of family brought together - a lovely mix.

We love that you attend events. The Harvest festivals had nearly every family represented. If you couldn't take time to be with us know that we thought of you! We find joy in you coming to events. Upcoming this week are parents evenings and that will bind us closer together in our work in helping your children.

## SEND AND WAITING LISTS

So as to the crux of the letter a plea from us as to a little patience and forgiveness if you feel we haven't quite got it right whilst we are sorting our afterschool care and adjusting elements of high needs provision.

You know there are plans that involve recruiting for afterschool staff. Please share the advert. <https://www.jennetts.bonitas.org.uk/school-office/current-vacancies/>

There is nothing more important to us than the wellbeing of your children. As such, we must try and realign and manage some expectations when it comes to our SEND provision in school. Our Inclusion Team and fantastic



staff team are working constantly to meet the genuine needs of your children, but we did want to highlight the national picture in schools:



Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

The rise in requests for formal and informal support is unlike anything the education sector has faced before. National resources are stretched and organisations such as CAMHS have zero capacity for this kind of uplift.

This last year we successfully gained 10 new EHCPs and have 6 more in the wings. Does that mean that our school is failing? No. In many ways we still flourish. Our teams are bigger, results are stronger than ever, attendance is good and our children as I've already said are a delight.

We have nearly 430 children in school, 25 EHCP and 64 other children on the SEND register. But our wonderful rainbow of needs also helps those with bereavements, family concerns and language barriers. We help a lot of families who struggle modelling how to be a family together following routines and supporting each other. Even if we worked solidly all day every day we cannot quickly meet the need some feel they need for us to provide at the moment!

Sometimes the wish for things to be done now has made home school relationships harder to manage. I refer you again to our parent code.

In our school last term over 28 parents wanted additional meetings to see the inclusion team who were not on the send register- often to help fill in CAHMS referrals. Schools are now the main portal to access ADHD, ASD and other services. We have diverted extra admin resources to completing the forms but each form takes upwards of 4 hours of time to complete properly and many back-and-forth meetings. We hope the queue will slowly reduce.

## OUR APPROACH

The greatest impact on any child is the teacher in front of them. We are prioritising the professional development of our wonderful staff to better understand the myriad complex needs that our young people face daily. We have recruited more teachers this year in a drive to create stability. The teachers will meet you this week half term for parents and also for those on the register an additional meeting for those on the SEND register if you so require. Somethings a teacher cannot answer all questions and a member of the senior team will join for example phase leaders, family support or my assistant heads and deputies.

Please read our Local offer. [Local-Offer-Jennetts-Park-CE-Primary-202425-v2.pdf](#) Our local offer describes what you have as a journey with us if you have chosen Team JPCE. There is not enough capacity for all to have a meeting with the SENDCO. That is an offer with other schools. That is not one we offer immediately at JPCE. I have intervened personally on several cases of people who have become irate that their needs were not met quickly enough nor feeling like they had more of the Inclusion Teams time. I can empathise but equally a fair system has to be managed.



So, despite the additional resources some will still have to wait. We would please ask for your patience when it comes to referrals for an issue: diagnosis and external support is needed for **some** immediately. But that is not to say all. My staff are constantly triaging the most important and urgent or critical cases. We will refer -but there is a comprehensive waiting list. I have had conversations with parents whose children have moved further down the triage list because of higher need coming in ahead. Many strategies are put in place as a provision to meet a child's need regardless of a diagnosis.

However, as you will read in the press education health and care plans EHCP and CAMHS needs assessments are - more often than not – being turned down at application. The local authority reasonably ask us if needs can be met in school. That is our test. Whilst we will do our best to help provide evidence if requested an assessment is not a 'silver bullet' when it comes to provision. We will write plans ourselves for those children who are significantly below that of peers or whom we spend a lot of additional resources. We will for each new referral ask for significant information from you but also from our own staff.

As a parent you are always welcome to submit an EHCP yourself but we would caveat that with there is still equivalent to **days** of extra time needed for each case to be successful.

Again, we strive to be honest and supportive. We will not bend the truth to fit though. I am worried that some wish in their desperation to get a referral ask us to exaggerate school evidence. If a situation requiring more help is more difficult at home than in school the plans and assessment requests are more likely to be refused. That is not to say nothing can be done. This is where routes to external support such as Early help and parental courses via our Family support team come into play.

We are working so hard against what was for a while feeling like an impossible situation and always in the best interests of our children. Bracknell Local authority in my opinion is doing very well managing the huge need faced. I know there are many of you who also see the change developing. Our school is not alone in this, and we are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND provision so that our children can achieve equity with their peers, not just equality of opportunity.

## FUTURE PLANS

We never stand still and yearn for better provision. In January we are proud to work with CAHMS to become a Mental Health School – we will write to you as to how that will help and what it means. This will add to our ELSA provision.

We are as we announced before half term delighted to be a member of the PINS Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools project. The Parent Carer Survey to support the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project is now open.

We are calling on **ALL** parents/carers to complete the survey, please go to link for our school here <https://www.bracknellpcf.com/pins>.

Save the date 4th December when parents can meet some of the team about our results and share more views around Neurodiversity.

As we start our second term of this academic year, we would once again ask for your patience as we work on each case, your understanding of our time and resources and your forbearance if we have delays.

We would ask these five big things of you :



- Consider can you give us the gift of time- maybe come in afternoon/ morning as a volunteer? We need readers/ mathematicians / lunch helpers. Join our PTA who have so many new events planned. We will pay for the DBS once you provide references.  
Could you give time to talk to children about your career? We love hearing about jobs. You could prerecord a chat if you are shy or time poor!  
Some companies have community days- we'd love to use your time especially in art related and gardening projects.
- If you are in need of help on an issue have you looked at the school's website. There are lots of support channels there. [Keeping Your Child Safe | Jennett's Park](#) , [Health information | Jennett's Park](#), [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) | Jennett's Park](#), and [Family Support | Jennett's Park](#) are all good starting points. If you think something is missing we are always keen to hear!
- Use the courses available via the school / newsletter to get as much information to help as possible. If none of these are of interest we have a list of courses for more bespoke packages on family separation, difficult conversations, managing behaviour that we can refer families to.
- If you hear of someone in distress in our community whether that is online on a group or simply through your observations let us know. We have many people in financial or other work related difficulties right now. Ask them to contact the school with the caveat that not everything will or can be solved quickly!
- Please Book meetings via secretary @ to see family support and the wider team if you have first seen and worked with your first point of contact the teachers. Our brilliant office coordinate all meetings but we regularly become flummoxed when someone does not attend a meeting or cancels last minute. If you have cancelled a meeting with the inclusion team do not expect us to rebook immediately. You will need to let us know if you wish to rebook.

I can do no more than restate that working together is our wider school and my priority. My team are passionate, dedicated and devoted but cannot solve everything. I have a lot of belief that things will ease in our country and hope that life will be calmer for us all. We will continue to work as hard as we can to ensure your child's journey with us is a positive one.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the gate.

Yours sincerely



Liz Savage  
Headteacher of Jennett's Park CE Primary

