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Dear Parents/Carers,

What. A. Week.

As I'm sitting here writing this newsletter to you all, I don't think I've fully processed everything that has taken place this week so please forgive me if the tone of this newsletter is more informal than usual.

I was standing on the playground yesterday whilst the children were leaving and I just felt sad - particularly for the Year 6 children. I do not believe that yesterday was their last day at school and I do believe that we will be back before the summer holidays but even so, I must admit that there is a distinct possibility, however small, that this is the case. I want to reassure the parents of Year 6 children that if this does happen, we will create an opportunity for Year 6 to be together, to celebrate their time at Bridge School and say farewell properly.

Home-learning packs were posted home yesterday (*yes, we really would like to buy £180 worth of stamps please!*) and remember that there are more materials on the school website under the **Supporting Learning at Home** pages and we will be exploring options for maintaining links between the school and home for those children who will not be at school for the foreseeable future.

If you'll permit me to end on a little anecdote...

In times of crisis, I strongly believe that we find out who we truly are. I know that I have said this before in my letters to you this week but I could not be more proud of the staff team here at Bridge School and the sheer number of emails, cards, donuts (and the odd bottle of wine!) I have received from parents tells me that you all feel the same.

The entire staff have pulled together working long hours to get everything ready for our children: the learning packs; keeping communication going and planning for the next couple of weeks. Many of them have done this prioritising the children of the school over their own families – if you want to know what our Christian Values look like in action, you need look no further than the people who look after our children day in, day out.

A few years ago, I was at a school leadership conference when a speaker (I can't recall his name) was talking about '*righteous indignation*'. He was a very passionate speaker and when using the words '*righteous indignation*' always did so in a slightly dubious Southern American drawl. What I took away from his speech was that when we face injustice, when we face unfairness, when we are '*righteously indignant*', we should do something about it.

These are incredibly anxious times for all of us, and I am fully prepared to forgive those who say things in the heat of the moment or without due consideration, especially given the current circumstances. However, I was very upset to hear about the negative comments on the playground, Facebook and WhatsApp that **do** get back to me, whether it's about having to close the school because our water ran out at lunchtime or the fact how it isn't fair that some parents still get to send their children to school next week. Frankly, I am feeling '*righteously indignant*' that, in a time we all need to be pulling together, there are a few doing the exact opposite.



Please! If there is a problem, talk to us. We all want what's best for the children but these negative behaviours make us lesser people.

I don't wish to end my newsletter on a negative, I wish to end on a two positives:

- 1) A thank you. The support that you have shown me and the school team over the past week has been incredible and I am humbled by it.
- 2) At least there'll be no complaints about parking for a while. Every cloud...!

My newsletters will continue throughout the school closure and please keep an eye on our website, Facebook and Twitter feeds for ongoing updates.

Please keep well and please keep in touch.

With best wishes



James Tibbles

Don't forget that this newsletter and all previous newsletters can also be found on the [Headteacher Newsletter](#) section of our school website.