



# Ashford Church of England Primary School

4 April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first school rule is about showing respect to each other and it gives me so much pleasure to see evidence of this on a daily basis in our classrooms and on our playground. Where our children encounter difficulties in their friendships, it is heartening to see so many of them work to solve these, often with the help of our school staff and you, their parents and guardians. Our children show great resilience when they encounter difficulties and they realise that falling out with each other can happen, mistakes can be made and sometimes 'sorry' needs to be said; this is very much at the heart of our ethos as a school.

With this in mind, what has been less pleasant over recent weeks is to be aware of difficult relationships between a small number of parents in our school community. Such issues can be very complex and hard to untangle for school staff and, while we do all that we can to find solutions, sometimes this can be a lengthy process. I would like to stress the need to talk to school staff about any issues related to your children and not approach other parents in an oppositional way, be it on the playground, through text or on social media. We are all passionate where our children are concerned and it is very easy for this to spill over into unproductive argument. There have been several incidents in and around our school playground of offensive language between parents and this does not create the kind of atmosphere that we desire for our families.

As adults in the school and as parents at home, we all have a collective responsibility to model the good habits that, in the majority of cases, children at Ashford are able to show when facing friendship difficulties. More often than not, I am so pleased to see how maturely children work out their differences, as I know other staff are too. However, children witnessing attitudes or hearing words that are contrary to this could potentially erode the strength of these values in our school community. For the future, I must inform you that behaviour such as I have described, whether directed at staff, parents or anyone else connected with the school may result in the immediate withdrawal of permission for you to enter the school premises.

My best wishes for all our Ashford families for an enjoyable, peaceful and forgiving Easter break.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Austin  
Head of School



School Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2BW  
Telephone: 01784 253310 Fax: 01784 240381

[info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk)  
[www.ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk)