



Billingshurst Primary School
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Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come towards the end of term I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support and appreciation you show all the staff at BPS. We really appreciate the thanks we get and the knowledge that we have worked in partnership with you to support your children to be the best they can be.

At the end of term I know that it is customary amongst a lot of parents to buy a gift for the class teacher or any member of staff you wish to say thank you to. A small gift is fine and I know that we all appreciate a card, especially if made by the children, to say thank you if you think we deserve it. However there has been a more recent trend for parents to club together to collect money to buy a gift of significant value. Although this is very kind, and we appreciate the thought, we are unable to accept gifts of any significant value or monetary gifts such as vouchers.

I would hate you all to go to the effort of organising such a collection and then the member of staff have to decline accepting the gift. I am afraid it is stated clearly in our contracts and in the West Sussex Standards of Conduct where 'gross misconduct' includes: 'unauthorised acceptance of money or a bequest from a service user or exerting pressure on a service user to obtain money or a bequest'.

I also believe that, as a fully inclusive school, there should be no practices which potentially exclude anyone and risk applying pressure to parents based on their ability to buy expensive gifts. So this year, and all times following, please make a card or buy a very small gift if you really want to - flowers, chocolates etc are ok but not expected!. We are public servants working in the public sector – we do this job because we love it and we care about your children – and no other reason. So save your money and put it towards treats for yourselves this holiday.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

