To Year 6

Thank you for completing my recent questionnaire. I found the results rather concerning; as it was very apparent that Year 6 as a group were certainly struggling with their relationships. It was not confined merely to one group of girls or boys, but a more general feeling of uncertainness and fragility around your friendships. This, as you can imagine, is having a detrimental impact on how many of you view your happiness at school.

As I read through the comments in response to question 3 ( Is bullying a problem at our school) I was deeply saddened to think that every day many of you are feeling worried and upset due to either the actions or words of another. This response also certainly had a huge impact on question 5 (Do you enjoy playtimes?). Clearly if there are daily arguments between friends, fighting and a general sense of unrest it would of course be incredibly hard to enjoy this time.

Even more alarming was the fact that there appeared to be an acceptance by some of you that the use of unkind words or actions was somehow done in fun, almost as a joke. However, hurting other people physically or emotionally is NEVER OK and is something we should NEVER accept under ANY circumstances. Therefore if people you regard as friends consider it acceptable to tease, be disloyal or belittling to you they are NOT your friend. Friends take care and show compassion to one another.

As you grow up relationships will undoubtedly become more complex, understandably your friendships are more difficult to manage than when you were 5. Like everything in life when we meet new challenges mistakes are made, knowing, learning from and acting upon your mistakes in your relationships will help you become more confident and secure in your own right. Don’t follow others, be strong and do what you know is right.

I have added some quotes to accompany this letter as I thought they might help you to think before you act or speak. I am confident that none of you would wish to intentionally ruin a day, a week, a month, or perhaps even longer, for any other pupil at our school. However, the power of words can destroy a person’s self-worth leading them to feel worthless. As people we have the power to heal others rather than to hurt them.

I am pleased to tell you that over the Easter break CCTV was fully installed in the KS2 building. The cameras are inside and outside and are easily monitored as they are linked to school laptops. This will provide more safety and allow playtimes and corridors to be managed more safely in terms of conduct. However, I am sure you will all be practising extra hard in your final term as secondary expectations will be just as demanding, if not more.

Thank you once again for your honesty and consideration in answering the 5 questions.

From Mrs Sammons





