

Dear Parents and Carers

I have thought long and hard about whether I should, or indeed wanted to, make a response to recent events on Facebook. However, this week has been unusual and due to the extraordinary level of personal abuse I received on Facebook from a small minority of parents at Meridian, members of the local community and further afield, I feel it is appropriate to write this letter.

I want you to know I am very proud to be Headteacher at Meridian and I am also very proud of what I have worked hard to achieve here for the wonderful children that attend our school. And, despite the hurtful comments I have experienced this week, I will continue to work hard to ensure that your children are safe, happy and learning. The staff team I have created at Meridian know that I have high expectations of them because they know that I want the very best for your children – something that I know you would me to have too.

The unacceptable comments directed at me over the last few days have shocked, angered and upset many people, including my staff, my governors, many Meridian parents, members of the local community and my family and friends. I would like to reassure everyone that this incident is being addressed and I am working closely with East Sussex Legal team and the local police.

Once again, I would like to remind everyone that if you have any concerns or complaints about Meridian, then please can these be made using official channels so we can work together to help resolve any concerns that parents/carers may have. A copy of our complaints procedure is available on the school website.

I would like to thank all the parents who have either spoken to me directly or sent messages of support – I have really appreciated your kind words and positive comments. I would also like to thank my Governing Body for their unwavering support during this challenging time. And finally I would like to thank my amazing staff team at Meridian for all their support too.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and I look forward to writing about all the wonderful learning and experiences you children have been enjoying in my next newsletter.

Best wishes

Claire Westcott

Claire Westcott (Head teacher)

