

'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022

### Update for Parents and Carers – Malicious Facebook Post

CRC Article 19 – All children have the right to be safe.

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of, or indeed may have received, a Facebook post this morning, that has been shared, stating that our school has had a serious fire overnight, resulting in it being closed for 3 months. The post continues to talk about arrangements for our Year 2 and Year 6 children regarding their SATs tests.

**This post is not true. There has been no fire. This post has not come from Timothy Hackworth Primary School.**

As you may be aware from the Facebook post, **a parent has since admitted to writing this post 'as a joke'.**

I am deeply appalled, and very disappointed, at this malicious behaviour.

Further action is being taken.

I am aware of the inconvenience that this malicious post has subsequently caused to our families. Families and children have arrived at school today, concerned about our school having had a serious fire. Children have been worried, asking staff what has happened. Some working parents have been inconvenienced, thinking that school has been closed, and have tried to make alternative arrangements for childcare.

The mental health and wellbeing of all of our children in school continues to be our utmost priority. After more than two years of battling with CV19, dealing with concerns surrounding the war in Ukraine, alongside the difficulties of everyday life, this malicious message is most unhelpful.

The impact that this malicious post has had, particularly on those children in Year 2 and Year 6, and their families, who are working so hard towards their SATs tests, is significant. To state that our Year 6 children will be required to attend a different school is deeply distressing and hurtful to these children and their families at this time. To state that our Year 2 children 'have not met Ofsted's targets' is also hurtful and damaging to these children and their families.

Thank you very much indeed to our families who have not joined in with this, and for not supporting this 'supposed joke'. I am heartened that we do have many families with a sense of community spirit, care and compassion.

Once again, my apologies to you for the inconvenience that this careless, malicious message has caused.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. L. Boulton*      *Mrs. P. Crook*

Head Teacher      Chair of Governors

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