

Ottery St Mary Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Gilronan

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West Hill Primary School

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West Hill
Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1UQ

Headteacher: Mrs Cheryl Boulton

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4th December 2018

Re: re-establishing community access to the school playing field

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter dated 26th November. We welcome the more conciliatory tone than has been present in recent communications from WHPC. For our part we have not sought confrontation, engaged in publicity campaigns, gone to the press to make our case, taken part in photo opportunities or purveyed half-truths.

In coming to our decision on whether to permit out of school hours public use of the school field we carefully considered all the relevant facts. We conveyed our decision to the Parish Council setting out the reasons. The Governing Board, Smile Learning Trust and Head Teacher have now spent a considerable amount of time on this issue; time which would have been better spent trying further to drive up standards in our school and ensuring the health, welfare and wellbeing of the community's children who are our pupils.

Therefore both the Smile Learning Trust and the Governing Board now regard the matter as closed.

We will of course continue to make the school playing field available to responsible groups, for specific purposes at defined times and in accordance with our lettings policy - as we do for instance in the case of West Hill Wasps. We have also given our consent to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust to use the school playing field for night time landings for the benefit of the local community.

We would of course very much welcome a constructive dialogue with the Parish Council on other issues and look forward to working constructively and in a friendly spirit with you in the future on other issues.

Kind regards,

The SMILE Learning Trust and The Governing Board of West Hill Primary School