

Headteacher Paula Barlow.

7/1/21

Dear Parents/ Carer's

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well in these difficult times. As a parent myself I understand how stressful the decisions schools are having to make are, and as part of my role I wanted to send you a message and offer support if needed.

For those of you that do not know me I am Donna, I have worked at acorns for 5 years, and with children who have special educational needs for 22 years in a variety of settings. My role at Acorns until recently has been as a teaching assistant, and I have worked in key stage 2 with many of your children, for the past 2 years I have also been an ELSA which is an emotional literacy support assistant. In this role I have worked with children on a 1:1 basis. I was trained by educational psychologists at Lancashire county council, and regularly attend supervision and training sessions to keep my skills up to date. My main aim is to help children feel happy in school and to reach their full potential and I believe a child is more likely to achieve if they are happy and emotionally secure. If there are barriers, I work with children to try and remove them and improve their emotional well-being. I can and have worked with children who display angry behaviours, children who are unaware of emotions in themselves and others around them, children who are suffering bereavement or loss, self-esteem issues, social skills, friendship and family issues, anxiety, being bullied or who are the bully and working with children on relaxation techniques.

Many of you might already know that I have been off work for 9 months due to having breast cancer, and I was so excited to be returning to work after Christmas and seeing all of the Acorns children and their families, who I have missed immensely!! But due to the current lockdown and health and safety I am currently working from home, and because of this, Paula and Katy have asked me to take on a pastoral role, to support yourselves, your families and your children in any way I can. This might be a quick question you may have about anything, any issues you may have at home or at school, a phone call just to check in or even if you just need to talk with no judgements!

Over the coming weeks I will be getting a school phone, and when that has arrived, I will send an email with the number, but please do not hesitate to contact me at dcarey@acorns.lancs.sch.uk for whatever reason. If I am unable to help you straight away, I will find out the answers for you. I will be liaising closely with Paula, Katy and class teachers whilst working from home. If you need a call, please do not hesitate to send me your contact details and I will get back to you.

I will also soon be contacting children and families who are shielding at this time, I know how hard that is! Just to check in!

Thanks for reading and I will hopefully speak to some of you very soon!

Donna 🌈