



7th March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Polling Day

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of an additional school closure day and to provide a little background information.

On the 4th May 2017 we will have to close the school in support of the upcoming local election.

This will be an additional closure and is over and above our original plans for the year. I want to apologise to you all for any inconvenience this causes you and your children. It was always our plan to use the school house for polling purposes and this would have enabled us to keep the school open. It still is our plan moving forward but we have not been able to reach agreement with Castle Point Council at this stage.

The Returning Officer has decided that the facility is unacceptable and is insisting that the school hall be used. Unfortunately, he has the right of veto and we have been unable to engage him in any further dialogue (until after the election). I want to inform you that we have tried very hard to resolve this and to not lose another day of schooling. However, we also have a duty to give notice to parents/carers and to that end we have reached the point where a decision to close has to be made.

It is my intention to meet with the Returning Officer after the 4th May and to look at resolving any issues that may still exist, although at this stage we have not been able to establish what they are... It's a very frustrating situation, but unfortunately it's beyond our control at the moment.

Rest assured that we will continue to pursue the use of the school house for future polling day usage and I'm confident that we can resolve as we move forward.

In the meantime, please accept my apologies once again.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Paul Hodges
Chair of Governors
Jotmans Hall School

