



# Seghill First School

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Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



31 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to thank parents and carers for their patience and understanding over the past week, some even going as far as to contact Miss Chappell personally to offer thanks and support. This is always appreciated, but especially so during this difficult week.

However, I must address comments suggesting that the school was not shut because of failings in the electricity supply at all, but because the school was being deep cleaned. This is not true. To suggest that parents and carers would be told lies by Miss Chappell is not only unacceptable, but has the potential to seriously damage both her personal and professional reputation.

To suggest that one was a cover up of the other is entirely wrong and, also, highly inflammatory. The steps taken by Miss Chappell to navigate both events were entirely appropriate, including having to work within legal restrictions, and she had my full support.

As mentioned at the start of this letter, many parents and carers have shown huge support to the school, and to Miss Chappell in particular. Both the school closure and the Hepatitis case have led to very understandable frustrations and concerns. Some parents and carers have, quite rightly, spoken directly to Miss Chappell, enabling her to address the issues raised. Some people have not.

These concerns are almost always properly addressed by going to the key person which, in this case, was Miss Chappell herself. Should it be a complaint, the correct procedures are outlined on the website in our complaints policy. If your complaint involves Miss Chappell herself, then you are very welcome to address your concerns to me. Complaints or concerns approached in a proper manner will always be taken seriously.

Not doing so, can lead to damaging misinformation, misinterpretation and upset. It is only fair that the school has a right of reply to such accusations, and it is surely better for everybody if there can be two-way discussion. In this way, the school can best address your concerns.

On a good note, the electrical problem appears to have been repaired, and vaccinations have been completed.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Hall  
Chair of Governors

