

Mural painted by Banksy appears in school playground — BBC News, June 6, 2016

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-36462638/banksy-mural-appears-in-school-playground>

Jon Kay, reporter

Not a typical lunchtime at Bridge Farm Primary. A 14-foot Banksy original in the playground. He snuck in over half term. It was seven-year-old Charlie who wrote to Banksy to tell him pupils had named a house after the Bristol-born artist.

What did you think when you came into school this morning and saw that, on the wall?

Charlie, schoolboy

Really amazed.

Jon Kay, reporter

Amazed?

Charlie, schoolboy

Yeah. A hundred, million percent, yes, really shocked.

Jon Kay, reporter

What's your message to Banksy for doing this for the school?

Charlie, schoolboy

Thank you so much for this really good picture.

Jon Kay, reporter

The caretaker found this letter stuck to a gutter pipe when he turned up this morning. Inside, a handwritten letter from Banksy in which he says: "Thanks for naming a house after me. If you don't like the artwork I've done, feel free to add stuff. I'm sure the teachers won't mind," he says. Then at the end, a message: "Remember, it's always easier to get forgiveness than permission. Much love, Banksy."

Teachers would normally be warning children against trespass and vandalism, but they say this artwork is inspirational and Banksy was "kind of"... invited. Of course, it's also worth a lot of money, but the school doesn't intend to sell.

A child with a burning tyre is not necessarily what you'd expect to see on a playground wall.

Geoff Mason, headteacher

I think you have to interpret art how you interpret art. So, hmm... the symbolism in it, I guess, hmm... is for other people to... to work out. We just like the fact that we have a Banksy in the school.

Jon Kay, reporter

The man who found it was rather less impressed when he opened up this morning.

I mean, normally, you'd be clearing off graffiti, wouldn't you?

Jason Brady, caretaker

Yes, so I was very... I was a bit annoyed when I saw it on my wall. Thinking, "That's gonna have to come off, but then it was like, OK, there's a 'Banksy' in the corner. Right! Let's get on the phone and to the Head."

Jon Kay, reporter

Now the school intends to cover Banksy's present with protective plastic to stop it being ruined by other graffiti artists. Oh, the irony!

Jon Kay, BBC News, Bristol.