



Chantlers Primary School  
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17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness and heartfelt sympathies that I write to inform you, with permission from the family, that a parent from our school community died on Saturday. Lucinda has been part of our school community for over 5 years and will be hugely missed.

As staff, governors and a school community we offer our sincerest condolences to all of her family and friends who loved her dearly. The school has sent flowers and bought a memory box for Sophia to keep her treasured memories in. I know her classmates and parents are also planning something special for her too.

We have sought advice about how to handle this sensitively with all involved. Many of the children in Year 4 are aware. To provide instant support to these children and to manage how they learn of this sad news we have spoken to them as a whole class and told them what has happened.

We have not yet shared this news with other classes and respect the fact that families may wish to speak to their children in the familiar surroundings of their own homes before they hear about it at school or through the community.

These conversations are never easy to have with children. To support you when talking about death and dying I have listed some links below to bereavement charities who offer some useful guidance and information about how children often process this kind of news, should you wish to share this with your children.

- <https://www.winstonswish.org>
- <https://www.childbereavementuk.org>

There are also a number of stories that you can share with your children that may help to open up conversations about what has happened and how they may be feeling. Many of these are available as videos on YouTube.

- When Dinosaurs Die by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown (for young children who may not understand the concept of death)
- I miss you: a first look at Death by Pat Thomas (also for very young children)
- The Hare-Shaped Hole- John Dougherty and Thomas Docherty
- Always and Forever- Debi Gillori and Alan Durant
- The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
- You Will Be Okay by Julie Stokes (more for those that are bereavement and navigating grief- age 9+)

We will also cover death, dying and grief in our PSHE lessons over the coming weeks. This news will be difficult to take in for our whole school community. If you or your child is

struggling to process these emotions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Tracey (Pastoral Manager) or myself. Over the years of working here, I have learned what an amazing community Chantlers is, and I am sure you will all look out for each other at this difficult time.

Kind regards,



Phil Barlow  
Headteacher

