



Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear Families,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you of the sudden death of Miss Richardson, teaching assistant in Silver Birch class. Miss Richardson died as a result of bacterial meningitis at the weekend.

We are very aware that many children and families will be understandably very upset by this news, as are we. As most of your children are not with us in school, we are asking you to talk to your children about this. We appreciate that this may be difficult, especially as some of you may have also experienced family bereavements recently.

- It usually helps if you can talk to your child in a place where there is some quiet, where your child feels secure.
- Use simple, direct language appropriate to their level of understanding. Use the terms 'died' and 'death'; phrases such as 'passed away' or 'gone to sleep' can be confusing.
- Try and answer questions openly, and repeat explanations more than once.
- Allow and encourage sharing of feelings and thoughts.
- Listen to your children, their feelings and worries.
- Remember, children do not always show their feelings in the same way as adults. They may feel sad in one moment, and then be keen to play in the next moment – this is normal.
- Routine and stability are very important during difficult times.

We know that children can respond very differently to grief, but it is important that we reassure them that this is something that does not happen very often. Your child may, or may not want to talk about it, but it is likely that they will need your special care, attention and reassurance at this difficult time.

Our thoughts are with Miss Richardson's family and the whole school community sends them our most sincere sympathy and support. If you would like any further support please be reassured we are here to help each other at this very sad time.

If you have any questions of concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Mardell
Head Teacher