



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 22nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Bereavement in Year 7

It is with deep sadness that I write to you sharing that one of our students in Year 7 has died after a long illness. I know your thoughts, love and prayers will be with the family at this dreadfully sad time. Staff have been in close contact with the family and I can reassure you that they are being well supported by family and friends.

The family have asked that their privacy is respected at this time. Thank you for supporting in this way.

Many of the staff at school that worked with him are grieving too. Routine and consistency are very important in helping people come to terms with bereavement and loss, and additional support is in place for any students and staff that may be affected.

Discussing a death can be difficult. Any death can evoke strong emotions, particularly that of child within a school community. Below is some advice that may support you in your conversations:

- Remind your child that it is very unusual for a child to die and most children will not die until the child has grown up and is an older person.
- Children should be given clear and unambiguous information about death, and a chance to fully express their own fears and anxieties.
- Avoid euphemisms such as "X went to sleep" or "X lost their brother" as these can be very confusing for young children. It is helpful to use the words like death and has died.
- The death of someone may cause your child to remember some of their own losses. This could be pets, friends moving out of the area or the death of a family member. It is helpful to let them talk this through with you.

There are some wonderful websites that offer advice and support around bereavement and suggest books to share. A couple of the websites that might be useful to you are:

- Winston's Wish <https://www.winstonswish.org/>
- Cruse Bereavement Care <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/for-parents>

Mrs Coombe, Miss Davidson and I have spoken to the small team of staff that cared for him, his friends and peers within the nurture group he belonged and to the wider school community through assemblies, recognising the sadness that comes with loss, and the support that is in place for those that need it.

The child's family has asked me to thank the community for the love and support they are being given during this very sad and difficult time.

Do not hesitate in contacting the school if you are affected by this very sad news and would like further support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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