



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Learning for Life



Wednesday 21st October

Mrs. Helen Jackson

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you today to share some sad news about one of our teachers, Mrs. Helen Jackson.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Jackson was diagnosed with cancer and started treatment. Unfortunately more recently, she found out that this treatment had not been successful.

I have been meeting with her and her husband since the diagnosis to support both them and their sons during this obviously very difficult time.

Over the past few days, Mrs. Jackson's health has significantly declined and her husband and children have asked me to now inform the Meridian Community that Mrs. Jackson is coming towards the end of her life.

I have met with staff today to share this news so that we can prepare ourselves as a team over the coming weeks to support the children and each other when the time comes.

This letter is so that you as parents and carers can also prepare yourselves and your children (where appropriate). I have attached some information about Winston's Wish, an organisation that supports bereavement, particularly for children, should you wish to speak to your children about this. There are some great resources on their website.

I appreciate that not many of our younger children know Mrs. Jackson very well, but they may have siblings both here and at secondary school who will be affected by this news.

Mrs Jackson is well known to the Year 6 children and she was hoping to be able to teach in Year 5 this year, so these children are more likely to need support both at home and at school to process this sad news. Tomorrow, I will have an assembly with the Year 5 and Year 6 classes (socially distanced of course) to talk to them about this and answer any questions they might have. After this

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assembly, the teachers will have a circle time with their classes to support them further. As part of this support, children will be invited, if they wish, to write Mrs. Jackson a message to put in a memory box for her and her family.

If you or your family wish to write a message to her and send it into school, you are very welcome to do so.

I will obviously keep you updated with any news from the family. Please can I ask you to respect Mr. and Mrs. Jackson's and their sons' privacy during this difficult time.

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Yours sincerely

C. Westcott

Ms. Claire Westcott
Headteacher

<p>HELP FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DEATH</p> <p>Freephone Helpline: 08088 020 021</p> <p>WINSTON'S WISH WW <small>Giving hope to grieving children</small></p>	<p>INFORMATION AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITES, EMAIL AND HELPLINE</p> <p>FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS: Freephone Helpline 08088 020 021 winstonswish.org</p> <p>FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: help2makesense.org Email ask@winstonswish.org</p> <p><small>17 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3DA Tel: 01242 515 157 Winston's Wish is a Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1081355, (Scotland) SC041163 0116, v1.11-17</small></p> <p>WW</p>
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