

13th July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had some very sad news about our lovely cook, Sally Bond. Sally had been battling leukaemia and it recently returned. Sally was still at work with us up until mid-June, so we were all really upset and saddened to hear that Sally died yesterday afternoon.

Sally has been a wonderful cook at Watton for many years and her two children attended Watton School. She was a brilliant lady and was always cheering everyone up with her great sense of humour. Sally always took the time to get to know our children really well, and was often sharing a joke with them at lunchtime. Sally was loved by staff and children alike and we will all miss her very much.

We recognise that some children would have come in this morning knowing this news, while others may not have been aware. With this in mind, we thought carefully about what to say to the children and how best to manage the day. We also recognise that some children, especially the older children, will have got to know Sally really well. We talked as a staff this morning and decided the most appropriate way to talk to the children was in their individual classes, at a level appropriate for their age and experiences. We felt it was important to also give the children some time to talk and ask questions, carefully led and supported by the adults in the class.

With Nursery and preschool, we decided not to talk to the children as many of them would not necessarily have known Sally. For Reception children, who are away at Stansted Airport today, the teachers will find a good time to talk to them (probably tomorrow). For the Year 4s at Hudnell Park, Mrs Dowie and her team will find an appropriate time during their stay to talk to them and also ensure they do get on and enjoy their exciting time away. All other classes will have been spoken to today.

We are sure that you will appreciate that this has not been easy for staff today and felt it was important to ensure we did give the children time to talk as they needed. We anticipate that some of the children will want to talk more about this when they get home this evening.

Our love and best wishes are with Sally's family at this time. A few parents have already approached me this morning and asked about a collection. We will let you know, as soon as possible, how Sally's family would like us (as a school and parent body) to show our condolences.

Thank you,

Zoe Hussain

Headteacher