

# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought it appropriate to write to you to let you know that the father of one of our children in your child's class died last week. Obviously, this is a very distressing time for the family involved and it is especially hard for a 9 year old to come to terms with losing their father.

We have talked to the class today to explain what has happened, as obviously, the subject of death is a very tricky one with young children and they do not really know how to respond or indeed, whether it is actually true.

I am writing to you, with the mother's permission, for two reasons.

The first is that your child might come home and talk about this with you and I thought you would want to be prepared to help answer any questions they might have. Death is such a difficult subject for young children and as adults it does help to be prepared so that we know how to answer questions appropriately.

The second is that we have asked the children just to be a little sensitive and not to talk about this all of the time or ask any direct questions to the child. Whilst it is important that we do talk openly and not avoid questions or discussions about death, we also have to be respectful of the child in question who really just wants to come to school to try to be 'normal'.

Thank you for your understanding and support with this very sad and sensitive issue. I am sure you join with us all in sending our heartfelt sympathy to the whole family.

If you want to talk this through at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Head Teacher

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