



Hi Everyone,

I am sure you can all appreciate, the past two days have been the most difficult days we have ever experienced at Crossflatts Primary School, with the heartbreaking news we received yesterday about our beautiful Oliver Walker tragically passing away.

As I wrote in my letter to you all yesterday, Oliver was a boy who loved to play out, be in mud and loved his wellies. Therefore, you will see that the staff and children have begun to place their wellies in a long line around the front of school as our way of remembering Oliver as the little adventurer he was. If you wish to join in, please feel free to place your wellies alongside ours. When times are difficult at Crossflatts Primary School, we stand shoulder to shoulder and support each other as the strong community that we are.

This morning we have held Special Assemblies to remember Oliver and to honour him as part of our Crossflatts Primary School family. It was really important that the children had some time and space to reflect and to process their feelings. As a school, we think it is really important that the children know that there is no right or wrong way to feel at a time like this and that it is okay to feel sad, upset, scared and confused. The children were fantastic during and after the assemblies, which I led along with Reverend Martyn from Bingley Church. Inevitably, the children have held lots of conversations around the subject of bereavement today and we have answered their questions honestly, yet as simply as possible. The authority are providing us with some expert grief counsellors should we identify any child or staff member, who may need some extra support during this very emotional time at school. I am sure over the coming days, the children will also ask questions at home. Parents may wish to visit <https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/how-to-be-a-parent/communication/talk-to-kids-death/#.WqpeQmrFKUk> as this website has some useful information and guidance.

I know that your kind messages, cards and emails have really helped myself, staff and especially the reception team during what has been the saddest of times of all of our careers. I am beginning to receive a large selection of cards, drawings and poems that the children have written for Oliver and his family, which I will of course take over to Mr and Mrs Walker. If parents wish to send any cards to Oliver's family please leave them at the main reception.

I am aware that our families are keen to help Mr and Mrs Walker. I am going to visit Mr and Mrs Walker next week and I will discuss how they would like school to work with them to celebrate Oliver's life, but also ways in which we can support the family, in a way they would appreciate the most at this dreadful time. I will of course then communicate their wishes to everyone so we can proceed as quickly as possible.

My final paragraph is to Oliver.

Oliver you were a shining star within our school and we were so proud to have you as part of our family. You are going to be missed so so much by everybody, especially all of the Ladybirds , Butterflies and all of the adults who looked after you in our school. We will always remember your beautiful smile, your jumping, how you loved to build towers and, of course, you marching into school in your wellies. All of our love. xxx

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher