

8th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 5 Indigo,

I am writing with the family's permission, to inform you of the sad and unexpected death of a parent from your child's class, Ms Shannoya Noble, Jayden Noble's mother.

We received the news from a family member during the Christmas holidays and have been working on a detailed care plan to ensure that the children and their family are fully supported on their return to school tomorrow.

As part of this plan, I spoke to your child's class to share the news with them today along with Mr Greely their class teacher, Ms Alex Gloria and Arta and Yvonne our learning mentors and we answered any immediate questions they had.

The conversation focused on how Jayden might be feeling and how people experience and show their grief in different ways, some of which can seem unusual or unexpected. Children were asked to be kind, patient and tolerant and to listen to Jayden if he chooses to speak with them but to take care not to start conversations about it with him or to ask him questions.

I emphasised that they may have questions or things they want to say and named the adults, including myself as the people to speak to.

I also made sure they understood how unusual it is to lose a parent at this age and whilst their thoughts might go to their own families and loved ones, it really is an exceptional and unusual event and not one they should worry about.

However, I suspect there will be some anxiety and it is likely they will speak to you or other family members about it.

It is a very difficult area to talk about, however, I am aware that news like this can provoke worry amongst some children. With this in mind, please see the following useful links for advice on how to support your child.

<https://www.winstonswish.org/supporting-you/support-for-schools/>

The main advice I am giving staff is to acknowledge how children are feeling and to be honest in their responses so children are not left confused. Please also be assured we will be keeping a close eye on all the children in the class and ensuring they all know who to talk to if they need to.

I will write again to the whole school community about ways in which we can pull together to support the family but for now I know you will all join me in keeping them in your thoughts and prayers during this incredibly sad and challenging time.

Best wishes,



Hina Shah – Headteacher