Featherby Junior School
Chilham Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 6BT
Executive Headteacher Mr D Marsh
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Friday, 11th May 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

We appreciate that Wednesday's news of the tragic death of [redacted] has been rather upsetting for many of us. Mr Brenton has been in contact with [redacted]'s family to ensure that we are supporting them and working within their wishes. It is a difficult time for them and we ask that their privacy is respected and they are given time to grieve.

Staff have been working closely with children to ensure that they are supported and guided at this time in order to be able to manage their feelings about bereavement and loss. The children have pulled together and we have been impressed with how they have looked after each other. We will continue to work with classes and individual children over the coming weeks with guidance from the Educational Psychology team and other agencies. The advice we are receiving is that grief does not always manifest itself immediately and that initial counselling is not always the most appropriate response. We are looking to provide long-term support and care in the coming months and beyond. Additionally, we have included within this letter signposting to further support materials to enable children to cope with their feelings about loss.

A number of children and parents have expressed a desire in raising money to celebrate [redacted]'s life. Today Year 6 children have been discussing ideas of fundraisers and will be leading on this in the future. After half term we will share the ideas and plans from the children of how money will be raised and spent.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Marsh
Executive Headteacher

Miss Blower
Headteacher, Featherby Infant & Nursery School

Maritime