

TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Thursday 13th May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

I am writing with the very sad news of the death of the father of one of the children who attends our school. His tragic loss will be devastating to his family and friends, and it has come as a great shock to many of us at the school too.

On behalf of the entire school, I convey our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Our thoughts and sympathies are with them at this very difficult time. I have been in contact with the child's mother and we are planning to support her son when he returns on Monday.

Many of you may already have heard about the tragic news and we understand that there will be some discussion and interest as to the cause of death and rumours may begin to circulate. We ask that you do not speculate, out of respect for the family and friends. Please be mindful that young children have very good hearing and are quick to pick up on grown-ups' conversations. Also, please refrain from using social media to discuss this, as this can be deeply hurtful and unfair to the family at such an incredibly difficult time.

We will be informing the children in Year 1 and Year 2 about the parent's death in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. We are planning for the child's return to school to be as normal as it can be and we will put additional support in place and respond as needed. The kindness of other children and of the staff in his class and across the school will be very important at this time.

The family's loss will affect us all in different ways at different times. The school is receiving support from the Local Authority and also from our valued colleagues at Brighter Futures. There are many useful resources available to help understand the process of bereavement and grief, including guidance to parents to support conversations with children. Here are just two:

[Wise Words](#) – six common sentiments around loss

[Bereavement and Childhood](#) – helping parents and children cope when someone close to them dies.

We will need to support each other as we go through the next days, weeks and months together and through what may be a difficult journey with feelings of grief, upset, anger, confusion, loss of sleep – which are all normal responses. If you notice that your child has been affected in anyway, or there is a change in your child's behaviour, please do inform your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,

George Samios
Headteacher