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Headteacher: Mrs. J. Payne

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write, first and foremost, to say thank you for all your support over the last few weeks. I know this has been an extremely challenging time for many of our children, as well as the wider Southport community.

The events of 29 July last year shook Churchtown, Southport and indeed the whole country to our core. The tragic loss of Alice and Bebe, as well as the trauma involved for other children and our brave colleagues, has left a hole that could never be filled.

However, we are determined to do all we can to honour the memories of Alice and Bebe, so that something good might still come out of this tragedy. As part of this effort, I will be running the London Marathon on 27th April in memory of Alice and Bebe. I will be joined by Alice's father, Sergio.

Colleagues are also taking part, with parents and friends from across the Endeavour Learning Trust community joining in too at April's Blackpool Festival of Running.

We're running to raise funds to build a new playground to honour Alice and Bebe's memory. This idea was proposed to us by Alice's parents as a way of honouring her memory, and will serve as a joyful, healing space for all our pupils. It will be a place where they can do what children do best - play, explore and grow, and is designed to offer a variety of opportunities for over 700 children so they can each thrive in their own unique way.

This new playground will be a special space to remember Alice and Bebe, reflecting their characters and the joy they brought to Churchtown Primary.

Designs for the new playground include a dedicated performance space, a new indoor and outdoor library where pupils and their families can come together, and a trim trail track. Plans also feature enhancements to the early years' playground, including a den-building area to inspire creativity and adventure.

We aim to raise £250,000, but we don't want to stop there. Any additional funds raised will be set aside for local charities helping affected by this tragedy.

We're asking for your support in our mission and are grateful for your help in any way you can. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a difference in bringing us closer to our goal.

We understand that not everybody will be able to donate at this time. You can also support us by spreading our message far and wide, sharing the link below, telling everyone you know, and encouraging them to give what they can. There will also be opportunities for all children to be involved in the fundraising and I will share further information about these opportunities in the coming weeks.



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The funds we raise will go directly to developing a new, inclusive playground that reflects the love, hope, and resilience of our school community, as well as commemorating the energy and creativity of Alice and Bebe.

The new playground will not only be a fitting tribute to Alice and Bebe but also a safe, welcoming space for every child at Churchtown Primary. You can find how to donate to the fund, or share this news, here:

<https://gofund.me/9a3a38dc>



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jinnie Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jinnie Payne  
Headteacher