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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Yesterday Buckingham Palace announced the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

The DfE have written to schools to notify us that we have now entered a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral. Guidance providing the public, businesses and institutions with advice on the period of national mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be issued by the Cabinet Office and I am obliged to follow this.

I have already been advised that schools should remain open. Whilst normal attendance is expected, I do have the power to authorise leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances. Any requests for leave of absence related to this situation will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances. We are aware that this event may resonate with some of our families in ways that bring pain or discomfort for a variety of reasons, and if this affects you and we can help, please contact us.

The Department for Education has advised consider conducting special activities, holding assemblies or adapting planned lessons to reflect the period of national mourning. We will be doing this on Monday in our Y1 and Y2 assembly, with due regards to the age of the children. Reception children may discuss it in their classrooms, and teachers will be mindful that these are early days for these children in school and in their relationships with the school adults. If your child has any particular worries, please let the teacher know.

If your child has questions, particularly about death, as a result of this news, this resource may be helpful.
https://www.winstonswish.org/supporting-you/supporting-children-death-of-queen/?fbclid=IwAR3kM_9M366cOP2uqmLPu7dIebdUsNcolHcguH9jyfzsPaaLmny0H277y4c

Hildi Mitchell, Headteacher