



DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dowson Primary Academy 0161 366 0177



9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that my first letter of the school year to you is upon the announcement yesterday of the death of our Queen Elizabeth II. Our whole school community shared great joy and jubilation in the summer to celebrate her great reign of 70 years; the news of her death brings us such heavy hearts. Our Dowson flag flies at half-mast today and until after her funeral.

This morning, our assembly included a short introduction about The Queen and minute's silence to reflect and say thank you as well as sending our thoughts to The Royal Family at this time. We also invite you to join us for a minute's silence on the playground on Monday morning before the children come in to school. The staff will be on both Lower and Upper School playground at 8:45 on Monday and a whistle will be blown to mark the start and end of the silence. There is no particular place to stand, we just ask that you stand still and silent during this time and join us in a moment's reflection as a community. The children will then attend an assembly to commemorate the Queen's life and look towards the changes that the country will incur.

Over the coming days – during the 10 day period of National mourning – the children will have their usual curriculum supplemented with some age appropriate sessions to understand the changing of a monarch and be given a chance to think about our gratitude for Queen Elizabeth's long and faithful service to our country. A small number of our older pupils will be taken to lay a commemorative wreath at Hyde Town Hall next week on school's behalf.

Books of condolence are being opened across the borough and will be available from today until the day after The Queen's funeral. Our nearest locations should you wish to make an entry to this are Hyde and Hattersley libraries. Please check the building opening times before you visit. If you would prefer to sign the official Buckingham Palace e-book of condolence you may do so at www.royal.uk.

The proclamation of the new monarch, official silence and state funeral are being organised. If there are further arrangements for any of these, I will communicate these when I receive them.

Children may feel upset or anxious about the death of our Queen and may have questions too. We will of course support our pupils in school but if you need any help or support with doing so at home, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn
Principal

