



Dear Families,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that one of our pupils has passed away. In accordance with the wishes of the pupil's parents, we have not included their child's name in this letter, and we ask that their family's privacy is respected.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the pupil's family and loved ones at this incredibly difficult time.

As a school community, we are deeply saddened by this loss and are working closely together to ensure that appropriate support is available for our pupils, families and staff.

We recognise that many families may wish to share this news with their child at home before they return to school. For some children and young people, hearing difficult news in the familiarity of home, supported by people they know and trust, may be more comforting than learning about it at school.

Every child will respond differently. Some may wish to talk about their feelings immediately, whilst others may need more time to process what they have heard. We encourage families to use language that is appropriate to their child's age and level of understanding and to reassure them that there will be support available in school.

When pupils return, staff will be available to provide reassurance, answer questions and support anyone who may be affected by this sad news.

We respectfully ask that the privacy of the family is maintained and that any discussions, including those on social media, are conducted with sensitivity and respect.

We understand that this news may affect members of our school community in different ways. If you feel that your child, your family, or you yourself may benefit from additional support, the following organisations can offer advice and assistance:

## **Support for Children, Young People and Families**

### **Child Death Helpline**

A service staffed by bereaved parent volunteers for anyone affected by the death of a child.

☎ 0800 282 986

🌐 [www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk](http://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk)

### **Winston's Wish**

Support for bereaved children, young people and families.

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Tel: 01543 41489 | Email: [office@saxon.set.org](mailto:office@saxon.set.org) Web: [www.saxonhillacademy.org.uk](http://www.saxonhillacademy.org.uk)



☎ 0808 802 0021

🌐 [www.winstonswish.org](http://www.winstonswish.org)

### **Grief Encounter**

Bereavement support and counselling for children, young people and families.

☎ 0808 802 0111

✉ [support@griefencounter.org.uk](mailto:support@griefencounter.org.uk)

🌐 [www.griefencounter.org.uk](http://www.griefencounter.org.uk)

### **Child Bereavement UK**

Free, confidential support for children, young people and families.

☎ 0800 02 888 40

✉ [helpline@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:helpline@childbereavementuk.org)

🌐 [www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org)

### **Eclipse, Stafford**

Bereavement support service for children and young people.

☎ 01785 660800

### **St Giles Hospice**

Bereavement advice and support.

☎ 0300 330 9410 (24-hour advice line)

☎ 01543 434535

✉ [community.development@stgileshospice.com](mailto:community.development@stgileshospice.com)

### **Support for Education Staff**

#### **Education Support**

The UK's charity supporting the mental health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff.

🌐 [www.educationsupport.org.uk](http://www.educationsupport.org.uk)

We will continue to work closely with the family and will share further information when it is appropriate to do so.

Thank you for your understanding, compassion and support during this very difficult time.

Kind regards,



**Maggie Candlish**  
Headteacher