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Friday 9th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school community, we hope that you join us in expressing our deepest sympathies to Queen Elizabeth II's family and citizens, upon her passing.

She was an extraordinary woman, who served her citizens and country for 70 years, as the Monarch.

As we enter a period of national mourning due to the loss of our Queen, we have spoken as a whole school this morning, in assembly, about her passing and events that will follow, as a nation and as a school. The Department of Education has informed us that at the moment there are no school closures, however we await further details in relation to the state funeral and coronation of King Charles III.

Whilst we are aware that some children had already be informed of this sad news, others may not have been aware, the decision was made to share the same messages to all.

As we had celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the summer term, the children know and have learnt about her reign and the history of our country over this time. It was only yesterday, that we shared the commemorative book in assembly and handed these out to our pupils (Y1-Y6).

It was explained that she had become unwell, the doctors had told her to rest and she passed away peacefully, as her family visited. At the age of 96 years, she has had amazing longevity to her life, with both remarkable and troubling times encountered. It was explained that the Royal family, like any of our families, would be going through a period of mourning and King Charles III's statement was read out.

As a staff we are aware that this could evoke feelings of sadness and grief, not only for the loss of the Queen, but also in relation to bereavement or sad times in our families and lives. The teaching staff have been ready to support any child who may need to talk about this matter, or the loss of a loved one or pet. We reminded the children of how they can seek help and support by speaking to staff or using the class "worry box".

The children received the information very well and she would have been so proud of them, as we are, smart in their uniforms, behaving beautifully and celebrating all of their achievements this week. We continued celebration assembly, handing out a "new" cup, as a weekly teacher's award. The classes put their marble rewards in the jar, which is already looking close to a behaviour celebration, and the school have been challenged to learn to count in as many different languages as we can!

Please let your child's class teacher or Miss Parish FCW@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk know if your child needs any additional time to talk, regarding this matter.

We will share further communications when decisions have been confirmed and shared with us, about the state funeral and coronation.

With kindest regards,

Kirsti Ashman

(Head Teacher)

