



26th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

On the 15th April, I wrote to you with the concerning news that a member of our science department was missing from his home. Today, school received the news that Mr Blyth has been found and has sadly died, barring formal identification. You may have seen this yourself on social media streams as the news emerges. We were all hopeful for his safe return after being informed that he had gone missing on 14th April, so Mr Blyth's death has come as a great shock to everyone who knew him. We continue to offer support to his family and have extended our deepest sympathies to them following this latest development.

I have been liaising with Just 'B' Bereavement Support, a specialist bereavement service based in the Richmond and Hambleton Area; together, we have discussed how - as a school - we can best support our children and young people at this difficult time.

We have told the school's staff members the sad news, with consent from the family. This message will also be shared with the children tomorrow morning at the start of the day by myself via a recorded message, with their form tutors with them to provide support.

As a staff team we will ensure that all children are given a space to ask questions and we will answer them as honestly as we can with the information we have. We will also ensure there is a space for feelings to be explored. I am aware that this may well bring up lots of emotions for some of the children, including remembering their own experiences of bereavement and loss.

We will ensure that there are named staff members within school that the children can speak to should they need some additional support or reassurance either tomorrow, or over the coming days, weeks and months ahead.

We do recommend that you inform your child what has happened prior to tomorrow morning if they are not already aware. You may have questions as to how best to deliver this news and support your child. I have attached a copy of Just 'B's bereavement booklet on supporting children who are grieving. If you need any additional advice please do contact the school on the usual number, or Just 'B' via 01423 856790.

Mr Blyth was a very important part of our community and his death will have a significant and lasting impact. We have our Ethos support team within school for the children to access when they need to, even if it is not during the immediate aftermath. If you would like to speak to a member of the Ethos team please call the school and our receptionist will provide assistance.





If you or your child would like some additional support, please note you are welcome to make a referral for one-to-one bereavement support through Just 'B'. For a child referral please ring 01423 856790 or for an adult referral please ring 01423 814480. You can also notify the school and we can help arrange this with you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

Mrs. H.L Millett
Headteacher

