



Copley Junior School



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Saturday 9th July

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that, on Thursday, Mrs Smith, a much loved member of our support staff team, died peacefully with her family at her side.

I realise that COVID restrictions meant that some pupils may not have worked with Mrs Smith or had chance to get to know her very well. However, other pupils have spent almost their entire time at Copley with Mrs Smith as their learning support assistant and midday supervisor.

Mrs Smith adored Copley, calling it her 'happy place' and being in school with the children brought her joy even in the days when she was feeling most unwell. She insisted on continuing coming to school, even when I advised her to go home after her treatments! I know that she would have wanted children to enjoy the 'class reveal' and for Year 6 to enjoy sharing their experiences of Northumberland when they returned home last night and that is why I am sending this letter today.

Mrs Smith's family has asked me to share this news with you so that you can talk to children over the weekend and discuss her death in a way which is appropriate to the children and reflects your own family needs and beliefs.

On Monday, each child will produce a colourful flower which we will then display on the fencing of the collecting area in memory of Mrs Smith and her relentless cheery smile. Please contact the school office if your child is in Year 6 and you would like to collect a template for them to complete this week whilst they are on transition at Ridgewood.

On behalf of the school community I have expressed our sympathies to Mrs Smith's family. Mrs Smith has worked in school for a number of years and was adored by the staffing team and children. I hope in the weeks to come we will find an appropriate way to celebrate the life that she had with us here at Copley.

I appreciate your continued support of our school community at this time.

Take care,

Miss Blades-Baker

