



CEO: Kate Watson

**EAST BRIDGFORD ST. PETER'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

***'Together in Achievement'
Take Care***

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Monday 12th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: The death of former pupil, Tom Shooter

It is with immense sadness that I write to you to inform you that last week a child who only left Year 6 at St Peter's in July, died, unexpectedly and suddenly.

I am aware that some children already knew about this before they returned to school this week, but I am also aware that many were not. With his parents' blessing (and for this letter), in assembly this morning I informed all the children that Tom had died.

I realise that for many of our children this may be the first time they experience a loss of this kind. All children react differently to this type of information depending on their own emotional development, how well they knew the person who has died and their own experience with bereavement. In addition to my assembly, the teachers have spoken to the classes about what has happened and answered any questions the children had as sensitively and honestly as they could. The biggest thing we have said to them is that they should talk to adults at home about what has happened.

As a school, our focus will be aimed primarily at Tom's classmates from the last academic year. However, all of the children know that they can also talk to adults in school who will do their very best to offer support. Rev Ruth Colby is also available at any time should you wish to contact her, either directly or via school.

If we feel your child is struggling with the information and we are noticing this in school, then we will give you a ring. Likewise, if you feel your child requires some extra support emotionally then please do let us know and we can talk with you about what services are available to help and what we can offer extra in school.

Words cannot express the sadness we feel as a staff. We will all miss Tom so much as I know his classmates will. His friendliness, kindness and unfailing cheerfulness were so wonderful to see, and it is these memories of Tom I left all the children with in my assembly this morning.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this or would even like a copy of the script I used in the assembly, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am sure that you join us in extending our heartfelt sympathy to the family at this time and respect their privacy while they begin to come to terms with their loss.

Regards

Mr Tomlinson
Head Teacher



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