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Dear Parents/Carers,

Everybody at school was saddened to hear the news that Queen Elizabeth had died last Thursday. On Friday we spent part of our celebration assembly celebrating her incredible achievements and her sense of fun. We ended with the film clip of her Jubilee celebration having tea with Paddington.

Today's assembly (Collective Worship) looked at her working life and the values she embodied. Our own school Christian values of Endurance, Service, Compassion, Humility and Thankfulness have been beautifully demonstrated by the Queen over her seventy years so links were made to our values. Teachers will be looking at her life over the coming week in an age appropriate way. Some of our classes have shared the Newsround Special Edition as a starting point for talking together. You can find this here:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch\\_newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch_newsround)

The charity, Child Bereavement UK has stated that a public bereavement can awaken a lot of questions about death and dying, even if children haven't had a personal experience before. The charity advises being open and to avoid ambiguous language such as 'passed away' or 'gone' as it confuses young children. Their suggestion is to use 'dead' or 'died' even though to us adults this language might seem harsh. The Book Trust have put together recommendations for a range of primary aged books which you can find here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/g/grief-and-loss-5-8-year-olds/>

If you would like any further guidance, please do get in touch.

On Friday, the school received a heart-felt message of condolence from the Mayor of Acq, Jean-Pierre Delcour. For those of you who are new to our school, we have a close link with the French town; our older children correspond with the village children and meet via Zoom at key points in the year.

I am sure you will have heard the news that the day of the Queen's funeral is a Bank Holiday so school will be closed next Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Al Higgins'.

Alison Higgins

