

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some very sad news. Rudy Clarke passed away suddenly on Tuesday 3rd January. We are all deeply shocked and very saddened by this tragic loss, and our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and loved ones.

Rudy was both our Assistant Headteacher and our Special Education Needs Co-ordinator. He had only recently moved on from the school at end of November to pursue new career opportunities.

Rudy was a very valued member of our school community and will be greatly missed by all of us. He was a very caring and thoughtful man with a passion to support the children he was helping and their families. His contribution to the school, and to the education and well-being of our students, will not be forgotten.

In light of this tragic event, we will be providing age-appropriate support for any pupils who need to talk or process their emotions about what has happened. Members of staff will enable talk time with class when needed and will support children with this upsetting news. As parents and carers, you might wish to talk to your child and support them with any questions and thoughts they might have.

We understand that this news may be very difficult to take in, especially for those of you who knew Rudy and the children he had most contact with. There are a number of agencies and groups that can provide support in these circumstances, and we would encourage anyone who feels they need help to reach out. Mind charity has a list of useful contacts, <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/bereavement/useful-contacts/>

We will be speaking again to the family this weekend to find out details about the funeral. We will share information, as soon as we are able to, of a JustGiving fund to help with the funeral costs.

Yours sincerely,

Justyna Powrie