



Downs View

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very sadly writing with some more difficult news. Annika Ali, a student in Badgers class died during the half-term holidays. Her death was very sudden and has been a shock to us all. I am sure that you will join me in sending our thoughts and condolences to the family. It is devastating as a school community to be mourning the loss of two of our pupils in such a short amount of time.

Over the next few days we will share the news with the children in school about Annika's death. We will continue to talk to them and support them in order to help their understanding of this sad event. It is important for the children and students in school and college who knew Annika that we help them to understand death, the fact that we will never see her again and that we will all miss her.

When talking to the students we ensure that we use appropriate and clear vocabulary. All staff will cover the same issues with their class groups to avoid any misunderstandings. If you would like to know in greater detail what we have talked about with your child please contact me or your class teacher.

We have arranged further support for our staff at this very sad time. We also recognise that this will be upsetting for many of our families, so please do contact us if we can offer further support.

Best Wishes,

Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher

Respect Aspiration Resilience

An **aspirational** learning environment with dignity and **respect** at its core, where everyone reaches their potential through effective communication, building **resilience** and having fun.
