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# BEAVER ROAD M20

**Beaver Road Primary School**

Beaver Road

Didsbury

Manchester

M20 6SX

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the sudden and unexpected death of our much-loved Ms Louise Rifkin (previously Mrs Garvey). Ms Rifkin has been a wonderful member of our school community for over 20 years as a teaching assistant, governor, extended school leader and a parent herself.

Our love and thoughts are with Ms Rifkin's family at this time and in an effort to try and respond to her death in a positive manner, all the children have been told this morning by their class teachers in a sensitive and age appropriate manner.

The children have been told that a very sad event has happened in our school community as Ms Rifkin has died suddenly and unexpectedly. We have explained that this kind of difficult news is hard to accept, that everyone deals with loss differently and that it is important to respect the way others grieve.

The children have been informed that for the duration of this term there will be lots of things we will be doing to support and help them through this – particularly at the Junior School where Ms Rifkin was mainly based. We will listen to their feelings and concerns and across this week at lunchtimes, some teachers will be available to listen to them in their classrooms and respond to their questions. It is okay for the children to feel and express themselves in a way they feel comfortable. We have also let them know that we will be supporting Ms Rifkin's family at this time.

Your child may or may not want to talk about what has happened, but it is likely that if your child knew Ms Rifkin well that they will need extra love and support from you in the days ahead. This does not mean that anything is wrong with them, it only means that this traumatic event has been too powerful for them to deal with on their own and maybe anxious. Take time to listen to your child and try to provide their normal routine as much as possible.

We have attached to this letter some advice and information for you which may be useful at this time.

Trained staff from Manchester City Council's Critical Incident Response Team are helping to support us through this difficult time. Where necessary, in consultation with you, we may work individually with children who are particularly distressed. Please contact your class teacher to discuss this further if your child needs some additional support.

We are all deeply saddened by this great loss from our school community, but in order to support the children and each other, it is important we keep to our routines within school as much as possible. I know this is no easy task, but together we will get through this incredibly sad and difficult time.

We are in touch with Ms Rifkin's family and on behalf of our whole school community, send them our sincerest sympathy, love and support. When the funeral is arranged, we will discuss with her family regarding their wishes for the school's representation at the service and will keep you informed.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Liz Hardy  
Executive Headteacher