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Friday, 12 February 2021

Dear parent,

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that Nalani Vickers (who was a pupil in year 3 last year) passed away last week after a short illness. Our thoughts are with her family and we have sent them our deepest sympathy and offered support on behalf of the school community.

We have not been able to tell the children in our normal way due to the current restrictions. If you tell your child this news please allow a space for them to quietly reflect on this sad news. I know that you will understand that at this time people will be experiencing many different feelings in their responses to this loss. This is to be expected and we would ask that you bear with us through this time.

We know that children will be distressed by this news. Whilst Nalani's death was not COVID related, this news may add to children's anxiety during these uncertain times and they may or may not want to talk about this with you. I know that you will take this time to listen to them and provide a familiar and supportive routine. We will make sure that there are opportunities for the children to talk about their feelings with their teachers when we return after half term.

Nalani joined Deptford Park in Year 1. She was a kind and thoughtful girl who made friends quickly.

These are worrying times. If you are feeling overwhelmed or just need to talk to someone, please do not be afraid to ask for help. You can call the school office or email us at any time. There are many organisations you can reach out to if you want to have a confidential chat, including Child Bereavement UK who have produced leaflets for children and young people who have experienced bereavement.

We are all devastated by this loss and our thoughts are with Nalani's family at this tragic time and the whole school community sends them our heart-felt sympathy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson

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