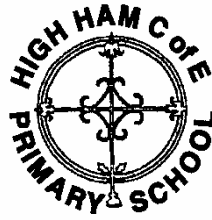


# High Ham Church of England Primary School

High Ham  
Langport  
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TA10 9BY



**Headteacher:**

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**Tuesday 25th February 2020**

## Re: CONFIDENTIAL Clare Wills

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you regarding the health of Mrs Clare Wills, our long standing Deputy Head who has been absent from school. After a period of several months in hospital, it is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that Clare has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Consequently Clare is now at St Margaret's Hospice and receiving palliative care.

I am sure you can imagine the sadness this news brings, Clare has worked at High Ham for the whole of her teaching career which is over thirty years and has touched many lives. As we prepare for the next steps, the Diocese is leading a staff meeting this week to advise staff on how best to support the children and Rev. Jess Pitman will be attending both parents evenings next week so she can offer support and guidance to parents. Please take time to discuss any questions you have with her regarding how to tell your children when the time comes and guide them through the natural grieving process.

When the time comes. I will write to you and ask you to tell your child, they will not be told at school. Obviously what you tell your child will be very different if they are in Reception or year six and they will have different questions which they may wish to ask or discuss, this is a normal part of the grieving process. Please do take advantage of the opportunity of Jess attending parents evening to support you in this process. You may find it helpful to tell your child now about Clare's terminal illness in order to prepare them.

In the meantime thank you to everyone for all of your support. I am sure our thoughts and prayers are with Clare's husband as well as her sons Tom and Nick at this very difficult time - I will endeavour to pass on all our thoughts, prayers and good wishes.

Finally, thank you all for your kindness and compassion during the last few months and in anticipation of your support in the months to come. I am sure you can appreciate this is a tragic time for the whole school community. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Rosser  
Head

PS: Please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin as we will endeavour to keep you up to date. You may also like to take a moment and look at these websites who also offer some useful information as well as support. Cruse and Winston's Wish:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help-for-parents> <https://www.winstonswish.org>

