



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Sunday 28th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that Rachael Page, one of our Teaching Assistants, passed away yesterday. As you may recall, Rachael had breast cancer a few years ago and came through that, but the cancer returned to her liver in recent months.

Rachael has been a huge part of our Queensway family and has been at the heart of the school for 20 years. Initially as a mum, when her 2 sons attended Queensway; Sam and Luke, but then Rachael went on to be our cook. She loved being part of Queensway so much that when she wanted to finish working in the kitchen, she asked me for a trial as a TA instead. We have never looked back since.

Some people go to work and fulfil their job description, but Rach and her family gave so much more to Queensway. She was fundamental in establishing the breakfast club, ran the cooking club, helped at PTA events, her husband Lee went on several residentials, they were key holders so came out in the night if the alarms went off, they cleared snow, supported the football team, helping at any opportunity to make things easier for everyone else.

Rachael was the most caring, thoughtful and kind person you could have met, always thinking of others before herself. She last came up to school just before Christmas as she was desperate to see the children even though she was in the middle of her treatment, so she met them in the gazebo for a short while, where they sang Christmas songs to her and enjoyed being in her company again. Rach was determined she wanted to come, despite all the Covid limitations.

For many of us, who have known Rachael for a long time, we are desperately upset and grieving. We will of course be marking her life and her commitment to the Queensway family in many ways, some privately as staff and some with the children. I will write to you in time with more details.

Please feel free to tell your child at home today, but we also will be telling the children in school tomorrow, in an age-appropriate way through circle time. We will keep it simple; that Mrs Page's body was poorly with cancer and she couldn't get better and therefore died. I appreciate you may need to have further discussions and words of comfort at home with your child over the coming days and weeks. All of the staff have completed recent bereavement training, so will be ready to support your child as and when they need it.

We are waiting to hear the date of the funeral, but if it is on a school day, it is likely that we will be closing school on that day, as a mark of respect to Rachael who gave so much to Queensway for 20 years. I need to allow staff the time to grieve and be with their loved ones. I hope you all understand.

Our thoughts are with Rachael's family at this sad time.

Best wishes
Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman

