

**Re: School closed 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear parents and carers,

We have received confirmation from the Department of Education that the official date of the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is **19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. This day will be a bank holiday and settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day as a mark of respect. This will include schools and colleges therefore, our school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

**Please note: the Year 4 Meet the Teacher session, which was planned for this day, will now take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (2.30pm – 3.30pm).**

Everyone will feel and react differently to the news of the Queen's death. We have included some ideas about ways you might like to talk with your child as part of this letter. The Winston's Wish website is a good source of advice if you are finding it difficult to talk with your child about the Queen's death.  
<https://www.winstonswish.org/talk-to-children-about-death-of-queen/>

The website explains: *'You might be thinking why do I need to talk to my children about the death of the Queen? They don't know her, so it won't affect them. However, the death of a prominent figure can significantly affect children, as well as adults. This could be their first experience of death and they don't really understand it or maybe they have been bereaved and this brings up those difficult feelings again. Everyone will be talking about it and there will be lots of coverage so it can really help to talk to your children about the death of the Queen.'*

The BBC Newsround website has some excellent resources which clearly explain the events that children will be seeing covered in the media: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

On Friday morning, we came together for a special Collective Worship. We found comfort and support from being together as a school community and celebrated and gave thanks for the Queen's life of service. The children showed compassion and respect. They were keen to share their memories and reflections about what the Queen meant to them. We have also created a whole school prayer space in school. The children have made beautiful hearts which they have used to give thanks for the Queen's life of service and to share their thoughts and prayers for the Queen, King Charles III and the Royal family. (Photographs of these can be found on our website.)

We will continue to provide support for all children in school by answering their questions and providing any emotional support they need. If your child has been bereaved or someone close to them is seriously ill, then the Queen's death might trigger their grief. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are concerned that your child might need particular support. Winston's Wish provides support for grieving children, young people (up to 25) and adults supporting them. You can contact them via their website or

Freephone [Helpline](https://www.winstonswish.org) team on 08088 020 021 or email [ask@winstonswish.org](mailto:ask@winstonswish.org).

Warmest wishes,

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## Speaking to children about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II has died aged 96 after 70 years of Service. The Queen spoke on many occasions about her relationship with God and her faith. We can be sad and mourn that she has died but also celebrate her life and know that she will be free from pain and suffering in heaven.

Here are some suggestions for how we can share this historic moment with children.



### Unpacking Emotions

We can feel many different emotions when somebody dies. There is no right or wrong way to feel. Invite children to share how they are feeling, do not be afraid to share your own feelings as well. Sometimes it is easier to describe how an emotion makes our body feel than find the right word for it. A child may not show the same emotional response as an adult, and it is alright if your child does not respond in the way you expect, there may also be a delayed response as children pick up on and mirror the emotions shared by adults around them.

You might want to explain that the country and world will spend time mourning together, this is because many people will feel sad and want to show respect for who the Queen was. We can be empathetic; thinking about how the family and close friends of the Queen must be feeling at this sad time.

### How we can pray...

Pray for the royal family as they experience many different emotions during this difficult time.

Pray for parents within the royal family who are having their own conversations with children.

### Remembering Service

We can remember the many wonderful ways in which the Queen served our nation and countries around the world. The Queen was also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Chief of the Armed Forces and Head of State.

### How we can pray...

We can pray and thank God for the many ways that Elizabeth served our country and the world.

We can pray for the new King as he takes on these roles.

You might like to write a thank you letter together to the Queen for all her service.

### Celebrating Salvation

We can thank God for the relationship that the Queen had with Him. We can also remember God's promise that those who know Him will be with Him in heaven, a place with no pain, sadness or suffering.

You might like to listen to some worship songs which speak about heaven and God's promises as you reflect on this future hope.

### How we can pray...

We can thank God that Queen Elizabeth is no longer in any pain, echoing the words of Justin Welby who prayed "May Her Late Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory."

We can pray for the new King that he would be comforted by his own relationship with God.

### Why does God let people die?

God's plan for this world was one with no pain, suffering or death where humans lived in perfect relationship with God. The world we live in isn't like that, it is fallen, sin has come into our lives and separated us from that perfect relationship with God. The world we live in has pain and suffering, sadness and death.

So God made a new plan, it was a plan that involved His own son dying so that one day we could all live with Him in heaven, in new bodies that never got sick, live lives full of joy and happiness every day.

Even though it is hard to be separated from people, we know that one day we can all be together again. Death is not the end but the next part of a journey with God. For those who know and love God there is the chance to live in Heaven with God forever.

