

Dear Families,

As we continue through this period of national mourning, we are aware of the huge significance that Queen Elizabeth II had in all our lives; she is the only monarch that our school community have ever known, having been on the throne for 70 years.

On Her Majesty's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, in 1947, two years after the end of the second world war, she said :  
*"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service"* and she was true to her word. The Queen provided many people with a sense of security and modelled dignity, humility and integrity and will be feeling a great sense of loss in this time.

It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating her jubilee together as a community. Regardless of whether we consider ourselves royalists or not, we can all appreciate the incredible service the Queen gave to this country. Some of you may not have considered yourself a royalist but find yourself feeling a surprising loss; others may have encountered recent loss themselves in their families and this national loss has stirred up feelings inside you. We will all be going through this time differently and will find different ways to cope.

To give our community the opportunity to share their feelings and pay their respects, we will be creating a book of condolence. This will be placed on a table outside the school from Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and we invite you to create poems, prayers, artwork or simply words that you would like to share to mark your respects. Mrs Wilkinson, with her artistic skills, will be compiling these together and the book will be available for you all to see once finished.

This opportunity is for staff, parents, grandparents and children (and any other family members who would like to contribute). We welcome you all to share your creative thoughts. We will treasure this book of condolence for years to come serving as a memory to mark this historic moment for the children. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September will be the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. This will be a national holiday and schools will be closed across the nation on this day for families to mark their respects in their own way.

Best wishes  
Mrs Huish



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