



ASH LEA

*Working together to be
the best that we can be*

6/01/21

Dear families,

It is with profound sadness that I have to tell you that one of our former members of staff, Maria Thornalley, has died following her long battle with cancer.

Maria will always be remembered for her kindness and extraordinary generosity of spirit.

She truly loved her work and working with our wonderful pupils. She was devastated when ill-health forced her to leave her Ash Lea family. On the first day of term, when she **had** so many other issues to worry her, she sent me a text wishing that she was with us all, feeling excited about what the new year had to offer and being back with friends and colleagues.

I have sent our sincerest condolences to her sons who survive her. If you wish to pass on your personal condolences, please send cards to school and we can deliver.

Maria had many friends at school and this is understandably an incredibly sad time for us all. For her the school was her family, and so many staff members at the school supported her throughout her final year in particular. Similarly, I know that many of our pupils will be affected by her loss. Staff will take some time to consider how best to support the pupils in their class and how to remember Maria. Our two ELSAs, Louise Staples and Catherine Humphries, will ensure that resources are ready and that individual support will be available, in particular for those pupils learning at home at the minute. We have resources suitable for pupils to support them through bereavement and loss.

Please get in touch with your child(ren)'s class teacher if you would like support on discussing this with your child or if you feel that they need additional support and have not been offered this. For those who it is appropriate for, classes will be taking time to remember Maria.

Thank you,

Kate Davies



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Ash Lea School, Owthorpe Road,
Cotgrave
Nottingham NG12 3PA
Tel: 0115 989 2744 e-mail:
reception@ashlea.notts.sch.uk