



Hanley St Luke's C of E (Aided) Primary

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Dear Parents,

It is with great sadness that I share with you the tragic news that, Mrs Niki Cooke, a much loved member of our teaching team, passed away yesterday. Niki is the wife of our Chair of Governors, Lloyd Cooke, and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this sad and difficult time. Niki had been ill for some time but until quite recently had been making a strong recovery. Her rapid decline in health and passing away in a relatively short period of time, has therefore been a huge shock for her family and friends, and, of course, our school community. I know many parents and pupils will also know Niki personally or have very fond memories of her as a teacher at the school and will be greatly saddened by this news. Please be comforted by Niki and Lloyd's unshakable faith from which they have drawn so much comfort themselves during her illness and shown incredible dignity and bravery as a result.

Both Lloyd and Niki have been part of the fabric of the school for many years, Niki having taught here since 1991; Niki's mum, Mrs Johnson, being a regular helper in our nursery and reception classes for many years; their daughter Holly attending as a pupil, and, of course, Lloyd, being our Chair of Governors and regular visitor in our worship times. To the very end, both Lloyd and Niki were thinking about the needs of the school, which is both humbling and inspiring.

Finally, I know that during Niki's illness, she and Lloyd have been upheld by the prayers of their wide circle of family, friends and our school community and I am sure our continued prayers for Lloyd and his immediate and wider family, will continue to be a source of immense encouragement and support at this very sad time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Williamson
Headteacher