



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre

Pottery Road, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9BS

Tel: (01634) 338040 | E-mail: office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Dear Parents

10th May 2018

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the loss of Ian Poynter our caretaker of several years. Ian's sudden death has come as a shock to us all.

He was a cheerful quiet soul, who was universally admired for his kind and caring nature. I am sure you can appreciate the huge impact this has had on staff, particularly our site and support teams, many of whom have worked with him for years. Due to the nature of his role as our caretaker he touched the working lives of everyone in the building in different ways. His mischievous nature and gentle sense of humour will be sorely missed.

As you will be aware this is the second bereavement our school family have suffered this year. Please be understanding in the coming weeks that staff are grieving while maintaining 'business as usual' for the pupils and are drawing on all their emotional strength to do so.

The children were told this morning by their class teachers and their reactions and wellbeing will be checked throughout the day. Some have understood but some haven't and we will treat each child individually, answering any questions they may have and will be led by them.

Please rest assured that support is in place from Place2Be and we will be employing the services of our educational psychologist to support pupils if required.

Our Governors and the Trust will also continue to support staff, whilst ensuring that school life remains as normal as possible.

However, **the discos planned for this Friday will not be going ahead**. This decision has not been taken lightly, but given Ian's key role in this event, we feel it would be inappropriate to host this so soon. We thank you for your understanding.

It would not be fair to ask school staff to field enquiries about the loss of a much loved colleague, so if you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me via the school office.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Deevoy
Head of School

Mr Ian Chappell JP
Chair of Governors

Head of School: Tara Deevoy BA (Hons) QTS PG Dip
Tel: (01634) 338040 | E-mail: office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Head of Specialist Provision: Debbie Amato BA (Hons)
Tel: (01634) 338080 | E-mail: office@marlboroughcentre.org.uk

