



Kents Hill Junior School



Kents Hill Road, Benfleet Essex SS7 5PS
Telephone: 01268 792133 Facsimile: 01268 795357
e-mail: admin@kentshill-jun.essex.sch.uk

Head of Academy: Miss Joanne Parkes

5th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils at Kents Hill Junior School,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the passing of Emily Kelsey-Foreman, class teacher of 4EKF and an Assistant Headteacher at Kents Hill Junior School. Emily passed away peacefully over the holidays surrounded by her family. I know this news will affect everyone in our community in different ways.

Emily was an extraordinary member of our school community. She was a devoted wife and a wonderful mother to her young son, as well as an exceptionally talented teacher and leader. Emily was deeply respected and loved by her colleagues and pupils alike and she gave so much of herself to our school and to the children she taught.

Emily leaves an indelible mark on Kents Hill Junior School. She was passionate about ensuring that every child was given the very best opportunities to learn, grow and succeed. Her warmth, infectious laugh and boundless energy filled our classrooms, corridors and sports fields and her commitment to our school was unwavering. She will be missed more than words can express.

Emily will be remembered with great fondness by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Our thoughts are with her family at this incredibly difficult time and we will take their lead in how we pay our respects.

We kindly ask parents and carers to share the information in this letter with your children in a way that you feel is most appropriate. We understand that this is very upsetting news and that children may respond in different ways.

There is some support and guidance available from specialist organisations that you may find helpful:

- **Child Bereavement UK** <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-bereaved-children-and-young-people>
- **Winston's Wish** <https://www.winstonswish.org>
- **Cruse Bereavement Care** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/bereavement-services/children>

As always, the wellbeing of the children is our priority. When the children return to school, there will be support available from all staff, including our wellbeing team. We are very mindful of the emotions this news may bring for some of our children and families and we are here to support everyone within our KHJS community.

Learning ~ Friendship ~ Safety ~ Success

At Kents Hill Junior School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Joanne Parkes

Academy Trust (Registered in England) – Company Number 7804282

Reg. address: Kents Hill Junior School, Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5PS





Kents Hill Junior School



I know many of you will want to support the school and our staff at this time. Please be assured that we are a strong and caring staff team who are supporting one another and that everyone is being well looked after. We are also incredibly grateful for the compassion and kindness shown by our wider community. Together, we will continue to ensure stability, care and reassurance for our pupils.

As ever, you are welcome to talk to us if you have any concerns and staff will be available on the gates of a morning and at the end of the day.

Thank you for your understanding, compassion and support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parkes
Headteacher

Learning ~ Friendship ~ Safety ~ Success

At Kents Hill Junior School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Joanne Parkes

Academy Trust (Registered in England) – Company Number 7804282

Reg. address: Kents Hill Junior School, Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5PS

