



1st July 2023

Dear families,

We are so very sorry to have to share with you the very sad news that Annie Mitchell passed away on Thursday, surrounded by her family.

Annie worked at the school for over thirty years, as class teacher, Deputy Head and as Head. The school flourished under her guidance and was a place where the children, parents and staff benefited from her able and caring leadership. Annie's belief in the school motto of 'Together growing in mind, body and spirit' could be seen in Annie's running of the school; the togetherness, including the children, parents and staff. Her focus was always on each pupil's personal development and ensuring they were given the help and encouragement they needed to 'Reach for the Stars' in the way they were best able.

We know that many of you will be sharing this very sad news with your children over the weekend. We want to assure you that as a school we will work to support your children in whatever way is necessary.

Annie's retirement celebrations last year showed in abundance the love children, parents and staff shared for Annie. As a whole school community we remember with love and thanks the gift of Annie's life and all she gave to the school.

Fiona Lee Paul Garratty

Francesca, Lucianne, Joe and I wish to thank everyone at the school, all the staff, the children and parents, past and present, all the friends of the school and the wider Old Coulsdon community for your kindness and support through Annie's illness.

Annie was so grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity; the many messages of love and support; the beautiful flowers that continued to appear on the doorstep keeping her environment fresh and bright and ever-changing; the gifts of food and other practical support that made life easier and gave us more time to be together.

We want to express our gratitude to you all. We have been helped through this time both by Annie's incredible positivity and the warmth and kindness of this extraordinary community surrounding and emanating from Coulsdon Primary School.

Nick Mitchell

