



**Marner Primary School  
Devas Street  
Bow  
London  
E3 3LL**

**Telephone: 020 7987 2938**

**Email: [admin@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk)**

29<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with profound sadness and a great sense of loss that we are writing to let you know that our Headteacher, Nick Hague, unexpectedly died just before Christmas. Nick worked at Marner Primary school for five years, becoming Headteacher in September 2016 and he worked passionately for all our children, staff and families.

Nick was also a well known and respected member of the education community, which he served for many years, both in Tower Hamlets and beyond. He will be very much missed by colleagues, friends and the families of Marner Primary school.

The school Leadership Team and Governors are working closely with the Council and other local Headteachers to make sure that our children's education is not disrupted by this tragic event, and to ensure that support is available for both staff and pupils on their return. We are making arrangements to continue Nick's great leadership and will contact parents this week to confirm when the school will reopen.

We extend our sincerest condolences to Nick's family and friends at this sorrowful time and will agree with his family an appropriate memorial when we are able.

With deepest sympathy.

Henry Waite (Chair of Governors)  
Janice Long (Deputy Headteacher)



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Please share the news of Mr. Hague's death with your child as it is important that this is done by someone who is close to them. We regret that we aren't able to share the news ourselves.

Here is some advice on how to deliver sad news to children:

- Tell the child as soon as possible, in a place where they can be supported and away from distractions.
- Use clear language that they can understand: such as 'he has died' is easier for children to understand than 'lost' 'passed away' or 'gone to the stars'.
- Allow for time together for comfort, support and any questions they may ask.
- Answer questions honestly, but keep explanations short, clear and appropriate for their age and understanding. It is OK to say you don't know the answer to a question, but that you will come back to them if you find an answer. Especially with a young child, you may need to repeat the information.
- It is OK to show your emotions and to explain that you are sad because the person has died, and that it is OK to be sad sometimes and happy sometimes when someone dies.
- Tell them about plans for the days ahead. If you need to leave them, tell them when you will be home, or who will be looking after them. This will help them to feel secure.

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Handlers/Download>

Over the next few days we will be working with the Educational Psychology Service to discuss ways to support our Marner children, staff & families in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time, under the most difficult of circumstances.

Kind regards

Janice Long

Deputy Headteacher, Marner Primary School