



Birmingham City Council Education Department
St. Mark's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Re. Tragic Loss Update

I am writing to inform you that I recently was requested to visit Penil Teklehainanot (the mother of our departed Saros and Leonor). She was overwhelmed with the words, letters and messages I was able to inform her about from all of our caring and sympathetic school community. She is very much aware that this tragic loss has affected us all. She is also aware that she and her family are in the thoughts and prayers of all the children, parents, staff, governors and parish.

At present, there is no date for the funeral, although some of the arrangements are being discussed; it will take place at the Church of Birmingham situated in Newtown. Although the funeral has been covered, as a Catholic School and community we would want to reach out and support this family, in a time of great distress. It would be very fitting for us to make donations which could go towards a lasting memorial for the children at the site of their burial. Please can you contact Mrs Gordhan in the parish office if you wish to support the family in this way financially. Any donations would be very welcome and appreciated but would need to be made as soon as possible, preferably this week. We have been given permission to close the school on the day of the funeral so that any member of our school community wishing to attend can do so.

At school we are commissioning a book of condolence for parents, which will be situated in the main school foyer, where I will strongly encourage you to write any tributes, heart felt messages and your prayers. I intend to present this book containing your words on the day of the funeral. Obviously we will be giving the children the opportunity to write their tributes which will again be passed onto the family at the funeral. In addition we intend to signify the departed children's memories in further acts of remembrance at school, this will involve pupils, parents, staff, governors and parish. We have had lots of suggestions to date on how this can be done most appropriately and are happy to continue to receive these.

Any further factual information that the authorities allow us to share we will do so in the future. I also from a personal point of view would like to thank so many parents who have taken the time and effort to offer their feelings and support with this matter. God bless.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. S. Murphy
Headteacher

