

Hello everyone

You will be aware that on Friday the whole of Stubbington is 'Going Gold' to raise money for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I'm sure you will all also be aware that this has been arranged in support of a very brave young girl, Sophie, who is a pupil at Anne Dale Junior School. You will also probably be aware that she is now very poorly indeed.

Any sort of illness in children is very hard to accept and can be particularly hard to explain to children themselves - especially in cases where the illness proves to be terminal. I wanted to just let you know that we will be talking about 'Gold day' in our Thursday assembly with years 1 and 2. We will be doing this in a very gentle way, and really taking our lead from the children themselves and how much they already know. This will be done in class with year R children.

I have a lovely book to share with them called 'The Memory Tree' by Britta Teckentrup which is about the wonderful memories we have of people when they are no longer with us. It will mean different things to different children but is very beautifully and sensitively written. If you ever feel the book would be useful for use with your own family we would be happy to lend it to you, or it is available online.

On Friday children may wear something gold or yellow to school. This can be a T shirt, dress or just a badge or hair accessory - whatever you have already that they are comfortable wearing. Any donations sent in will be given to 'Alice's Arc', a charity that has helped Sophie during the last year. You can also buy pin badges for £1 in support of the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group. Please send in any money for badges in a separate envelope.

We would like to send love to all of our colleagues at the Anne Dale Schools as they face this terribly sad time, whilst supporting their children in so many ways.

With love
Jacky