

# Young Lives vs Cancer

‘Together we can make a Difference’



- Introduction – Child and Family
- School
- What next ...



The information I am able to share with you today is with the consent of Jemma and Mark, Olivia's parents. As a school, we will do everything we can to support Olivia and her family during this very difficult time.



- Olivia's parents noticed a lump on her left arm just after Christmas
- Olivia has a tumour. She has been diagnosed with a type of childhood cancer
- Olivia requires chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy treatment



# How can we help...

- Give the family space
- Ensure you notify school if your child has signs of measles, chicken pox or shingles (see separate letter)
- Don't send your child to school if they are unwell. Olivia has a compromised immune system whilst undergoing her extensive treatment
- Encourage your child to have good hand hygiene (wash hands with soap and warm water)
- Be prepared to answer questions



# School and ways forward

- Olivia loves school and this must continue
- Ensure Olivia's friends understand why she is missing from school and why she looks different to how she did just a week ago
- Be prepared to answer tricky questions... What is that tube? Why has she got no hair? Will my hair fall out if I get a poorly arm?



# Information for adults

- Olivia has a portacath in place so she can receive her chemotherapy
- Olivia also has a nasogastric tube in place to assist with feeding
- Olivia has already started the chemotherapy treatment and has already started to lose her hair



# Supporting your children

- With your permission...
- In age appropriate speak and with the materials provided by the Macmillan nurse, I would like to explain why Olivia is not always in school and appears to look different
- How will I do that... using a doll in a role play situation and using the language that is shown throughout the book we have been given
- Nothing that is done will be to scare, frighten or worry your child. It is designed to help them understand in the simplest terms what their classmate is dealing with
- It will include things such as taking care not to knock Olivia near her portacath, do not touch her nasogastric tube, be kind with our words and always wash your hands after using the toilet





# Your consent

- If you do not want your child to be part of the session which explains Olivia's condition and treatment, please inform the office



▪ Are there any questions?



# What next ...

- As a school we would like to do some fundraising for the Candlelighters Charity
- The charity describes themselves as a big family which are there to support and bring families together who are going through similar experiences
- They offer financial support, a holiday, family events or even just a brew and a chat
- The charity relies on fund raising and donations to continue the important work they do in supporting families of children who are diagnosed as having cancer

**Candlelighters**  
Together we can fight children's cancer



Thank you for listening

**‘Together we can  
absolutely make a Difference’**

