

Huish Episcopi Primary School

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Tuesday 26th August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with deep sorrow that I share the news of the passing of our Office Manager and PA to the Headteacher, Claudia Soakell, who died unexpectedly on Sunday 24th August. This loss will be felt deeply across our HEPS family, within our local community, and by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

Claudia was a remarkable person whose unwavering commitment and passion helped shape our school and its community. She was one of the kindest people you could meet, and she loved working with the children at HEPS. She worked tirelessly to support others, always ready with a friendly face and thoughtful advice.

Her unique ability to combine professionalism with warmth made a meaningful difference to everyone she encountered. Claudia will be remembered for the way she made people feel truly seen, heard and valued.

She played a pivotal role within the school, supporting families, children and colleagues alike. Her absence will be felt profoundly by all of us who knew and loved her.

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to Claudia's family, friends and loved ones. Our thoughts are with them during this very difficult time, and we ask that their privacy be respected.

In the coming weeks, we will share details of how we plan to honour Claudia's life and her many contributions to our school. For now, we ask for your understanding and reflection as we mourn the loss of an extraordinary colleague and friend.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jenny Chadbourne
Headteacher