



## Safeguarding Newsletter - October 2018

### Edition 3

### THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING IN TOUCH

BBC News recently featured the tragic story of teacher, Helen Daykin. In October 2016, Helen was working away from home when her husband, Chris, died suddenly whilst looking after their young children. After his sudden death from heart failure in the house, Helen's little girls, four and two, spent almost 24 hours with the body of their father.

The older girl had recently started school, and when she didn't arrive, the school rang their father, to no avail. Tragically, they didn't then follow up with a call to the girls' mother, 200 miles away in London. The alarm wasn't raised until tea-time when Chris' mother visited the home. Helen is telling her heart-breaking story to raise awareness of the importance of first-day calls, and in maintaining an up-to-date record of two or three phone numbers which schools can phone when children do not attend. Helen's campaign is being supported by bereavement charity, The Good Grief Trust.

We will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as I am sure you would agree that your child's safety is paramount to us all. As a result, we feel it is important to share again with you, our already rigorous procedures.

Remember:

- ⇒ If your child is not going to be in school, **please call the school office before 9am** to report their absence.
- ⇒ If we have not heard from you by 9.10am we will attempt to **contact home by phone**. We will continue to call the telephone numbers in order on your child's contact list.
- ⇒ If we still have not been able to ascertain where your child is then we will **make a home visit**.
- ⇒ However, if we still haven't been able to get a response then we will **report it to the police** as your child will then be classed as a 'missing child'. This is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe.

Please let us know in good time why your child is absent from school.

**Safeguarding at Springfield Primary is... 'everyone's responsibility, every day'**