

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see the message below from a local family:

An incredible, smart, kind, beautiful little girl needs your help. On the 13th of May our baby girl was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Only around 100 children a year in the UK are diagnosed with AML, making it the more rare form of Leukemia in children. Two weeks into her treatment we found out that Florence was in the 'high risk category' and since then further genetic testing has confirmed a rare gene rearrangement that affects less than 10% of children with AML. The prognosis for these specific gene mutations is very poor- meaning we have to work hard and fast to get the right treatment.

As you can imagine, for our whole family, our world has been turned completely upside down. It is the type of devastating news that you just can't comprehend happening to your child.

In these last 5 weeks of hospitalisation Florence has demonstrated more strength than we knew possible. She has been through more in this time than most adults will in a lifetime: operations for Hickman lines, chemotherapy, lumbar punctures, bone marrow aspirations, infections, feeding tubes, hair loss, heart scans, MRI scans, the list feels endless. Despite all of this, Florence is fighting with every ounce of her being and doing it with a smile on her face as much as possible. She is often more worried about making sure that the other children on the ward are okay than she is about herself.

This is all very private information that we did not want to share publicly but we now have no choice, we need help. We will do everything in our power to help save our beautiful princess and what we need to do now is ask for the kindness of others.

The best treatment option Florence currently has available to her is a bone marrow transplant that she will have in approximately 5 or 6 weeks. They have searched the database and she does not currently have a complete match.

Therefore, we need as many people as possible to register to become bone marrow donors as soon as possible to give her the best chance of finding a match. We will be starting a campaign with our friends from the ward, whose daughter is in the same situation, to raise awareness about how simple it is to register and the ease of the procedure. We ask that when you see any information about our campaign that you share it as widely as possible.

So we are asking people to share our story as widely as possible in the hope of finding a donor and helping to generate potentially life-saving funds. Even if you are not a match for our daughter, you may help to save the life of someone else.

If you are over 30, you can register to become a donor at:

<https://www.dkms.org.uk/register-now>

Or, if you are under 30:

<https://www.anthonynolan.org/help.../join-stem-cell-register>

The support we have received already is overwhelming to say the least. We are so thankful to everyone that has offered to help and for all the well wishes. We had obviously really hoped that it would not come this point where we need to share our story publicly, but we will stop at nothing to get Florence better.

#bemorefab

In order to support this wonderful cause, we will be asking the children to wear Rainbow Colours on Friday 8th July and bring in donations to support this life-saving treatment.

Here is the link for the Just Giving page:https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bemorefab?utm_term=NjE4d9je4

Thank you for your continued support.

**Miss Gribble
Headteacher
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School**