

11 May 2018

Dear Worser Bay School families

Our daughter Stephanie was diagnosed with leukaemia (a type of blood cancer) in 2015. In April she finished her 2.5 year treatment plan. This was a major milestone and we are very relieved to have treatment behind us. She now starts 'surveillance' during which she will be monitored regularly. We still need your help and support around illnesses and immunity. **Please read on.**

Dave and I are very grateful for your understanding and concern during her treatment. Thank you for keeping a close eye on your family's wellbeing and keeping your children away from school when they were sick. This certainly enabled Stephanie to attend school most of the time - and kept our worries in check.

**Stephanie still has low immunity – and this will continue through winter and spring.** Her cancer treatment wiped out all her immunity to illnesses she was vaccinated against as a baby – and she cannot be re-vaccinated until she has normal immunity levels again. It takes time. She will probably start having vaccinations in August / September. **Lowered immunity means she is more susceptible to illness than other children. In particular, chicken pox, measles and the flu can have serious consequences for her.**

**Please notify the school immediately if there is chicken pox, measles or flu within your family. It's very important that you do not send your child(ren) to school if they are unwell.**

As always, many thanks for your ongoing support. We very much appreciate it.

Kind Regards

Cath Peebles and Dave Hayes (Stephanie's parents)