



Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Andy Bark and I run an education company called FAB Learning that works alongside a children's cancer charity. As you are aware, there is a child in Reception that is currently receiving medical treatment for cancer. On **Tuesday 10th October**, I will be coming into the school to share a story about the disease with your child's class and answer any questions that they have.

Working with the school, we feel that it is important that the children have a basic understanding of what cancer is and any changes that they could expect to see from their classmate. Please don't worry, the session will be age-appropriate and predominantly focus on the physical changes that a child with cancer may go through. The book that I am sharing has toys/ characters to go alongside it and will help to normalise hair-loss and the use of feeding tubes.

Optimism and positivity are key when discussing issues such as cancer with children and I assure you that this will be the tone of the session. The message that your child is safe, that they cannot 'catch cancer' and that is incredibly rare will be reiterated throughout the session. I hope we'll be able to answer all the questions the children may ask but there may be some issues your child will want to discuss with you at home. The advice that I would give is to be honest but optimistic about treatment for anyone with cancer, and that it's ok to say that you don't know the answers to some questions. Information about childhood cancer can be found at <https://www.younglivescancer.org.uk/>

Please make us aware if your child has a close relative who has cancer, or if a relative or family friend has recently died, so we can support your child appropriately. If you feel strongly about your child not taking part in the session then please inform their class teacher.

If you have any follow-up questions for me directly then please feel free to contact me at abark@fablearning.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Andy Bark

FAB Learning