



There's an American author called Helen Keller who said that "life is either a daring adventure or nothing". Life for you Sophie, was indeed a daring adventure. Bold, gutsy and determined, you are the very definition of the word "courage".

Sophie, there was always something incredibly special and striking about you. Perhaps it's your red hair, the sign of a feisty and fearless warrior. Perhaps it's your assertiveness and knowledge about what you want and don't want in life, and your ability to show other people, in no uncertain terms, what that is.

Perhaps it's your athleticism, your ability to do squats like we can only dream of; or your sense of balance, power and turn of pace that would be the envy of any Crystal Palace player at the moment. Or perhaps it's your gentleness, your tenderness and your ability to connect with others in a way that is both unique and long-lasting. If you deemed that people were worthy, that was it, they were in the inner circle, and there is nowhere better in the world to be.

Although you left Riverside a couple of years ago, you often came back to see us with your mum, dad and siblings and recently, you graced us with your presence at the Summer Ball. True to form, you turned up looking as beautiful as ever, with your expertly plaited hair, glamorous top and sparkly hot pants.

Sophie, you had the rare gift of challenging us to be better teachers, because you made us think deeply about what we were doing, in order to give you what you needed. And that's part of your legacy. Through you, other children will benefit from teachers who are more understanding, more creative, and wiser because of you.

Sophie, you have left your mark on each and every one of us. We will miss your dungaree shorts and Kickers, your wonderful sound effects, your powerful prods and your sense of adventure, humour and mischief. Thank you for touching our lives so deeply. You will always be in our hearts.