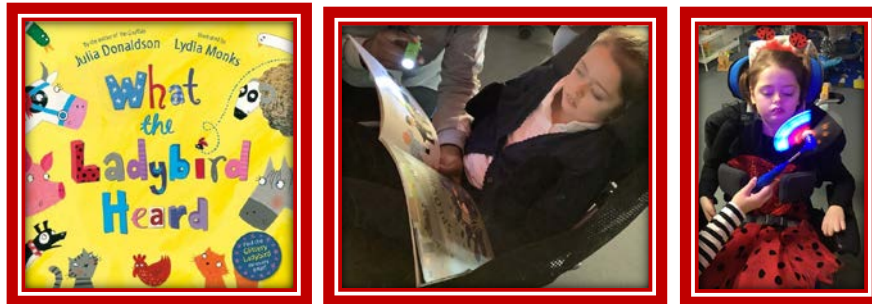


Dear Riverside Families,

It is with real sadness that I am writing to let you know that one of our incredibly special children, Gabriella, passed away on Tuesday.

Gabriella's favourite book was "What the Ladybird Heard", so much so that she dressed up as a ladybird for World Book Day last week.



In the story, the ladybird, the "tiniest and quietest creature of all", foils the robbers' plan and saves the day for all the other animals. One of the pages simply says: "But the ladybird saw, and the ladybird heard ..."

Gabriella, please know that every single day of your life, you were seen, and you were heard. Seen for the precious and beautiful girl that you are, and heard, however quiet your voice, by everyone who spent time with you. In your ten years, you showed us courage, resilience and strength; tenderness, dignity and love.

You may not have had the loudest roar in Tigers class, but your presence was everywhere and when your eyes lit up, so did the room. You will always have a special place in our hearts and on behalf of the entire Riverside School community, shine bright Gabriella, shine bright x



We know that this news will affect everyone in our school community in different ways and we have put a number of resources and services on our website to provide support. These can be found in the Resources for Families section at [www.riversideschool.org.uk](http://www.riversideschool.org.uk). Additionally, if you would like to talk to us, please contact our Deputy Headteacher: [charlotte.downs@riverside.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:charlotte.downs@riverside.bromley.sch.uk)

