

Anticipated Questions:

When will Rory return to school?

We hope that Rory will return to school on **Thursday, January 18 2018**

How did Rory's dad die?

We do not have that information, but we do know it is extremely rare for a child to lose a parent.

Why did this happen to Rory's dad?

We don't know why. It's very rare and sometime we don't always understand why these things happen.

Did Rory's dad go to heaven? Where did Rory's dad go when he died?

Every family has different beliefs. You should speak to your mom and dad about what your family believes.

Is Rory upset?

While I have not spoken to him yet, I imagine he may feel very sad. Although, it is important to remember everyone reacts differently and there is no right or wrong way.

What should I say to Rory?

It is okay to acknowledge what happened and say something like:
"I heard about your dad and I am really sorry".

It's also ok not to say anything at all. You could say:

"Welcome back, it's really good to see you!". Do you want to draw together, eat lunch together etc."

How can we support Rory?

We can support Rory by being a good friend.

What does it mean to be a good friend?

Being a good friend means listening to Rory, especially if he is feeling sad, it means including him in activities, sitting at lunch with him, being kind, saying nice things to him etc.

Key points to remember in responding to students:

- If you are unsure how to answer a question or what a child means, clarify the question before responding or ask the child what he thinks. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know"
- Keep responses brief and factual. Do not share unnecessary details or information that is not age appropriate
- All emotions are okay, including no emotion.

- Listening is more important than talking. Sometimes the answer to a question is just to acknowledge their feelings and let them talk
- Use concrete words (such as “died: rather than euphemisms (such as “lost” or “went to a better place”)
- Be honest and genuine about your feelings.