



I have a
friend who
has Cancer

★ Here are some of the things that your friend might want you to know.

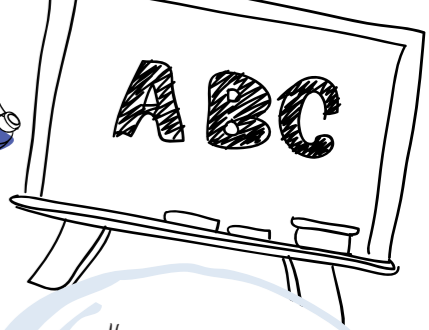
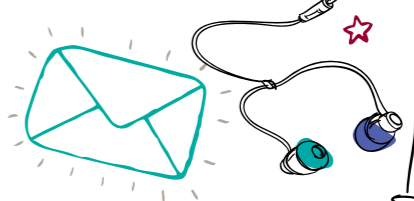
"You may have lots of questions. I might not feel like talking now, but I'll let you know if and when I do."

"I know I look different, but I'm still the same me, and I need you as my friend more than ever."

"If we have a supply teacher who doesn't understand why I can't do some things in class, please tell them for me."



"I might be a bit sore after my treatment, or still have some tubes in (these are needed for my treatment). Be careful not to bump into me. This might mean I can't do sport for a while. I'm not just being lazy."



"My brother/sister also needs you as a friend. They get left out because I've had so much attention with my hospital visits and treatment."

"If anybody calls me names or teases me, please stand up for me or tell a teacher."

"If I'm wearing a hat, it's because my treatment has made me lose my hair. It will grow back. Please don't stare."

"You can still call for me on your way to school, unless you know I'm in hospital or not coming to school that day."

"Do still invite me to parties and trips out. If I'm not well enough to come, I'll let you know, but I don't want to be left out."

"Sometimes my treatment makes me really tired. If I seem a bit grumpy it isn't because I don't like you anymore."

"Don't worry, you can't catch cancer like flu or a cold."

"If I'm away from school, at home or in hospital, do stay in touch. You could ask my Mum or Dad first to check how I'm feeling. Send me texts or emails, or even photos of what you've been doing in school."

"Neither you nor anybody else has caused my cancer, it is just one of those things that can happen. Cancer in children and young people is very rare."



"If I'm tired, offer to carry my heavy bags, and wait for me after lessons, so I can walk slowly with someone."

"My cancer may have left me with some problems such as speaking, walking or seeing things on the board. I might need to sit in the front row. Perhaps you could check if you can sit with me."

"I'd love to see you when I'm in hospital. Check with Mum or Dad first to see if I'm up to visitors."

"Thank you for being my friend"





You might have heard that people can die from cancer. This is rare in young people. Doctors are working hard to get your friend well again.

Originally written by Jacquie Palmer in association with the CCLG Publications Committee, comprising multiprofessional experts in the field of children's cancer.

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