Headteacher pays tribute to young sisters killed in horror smash as schoolmates left 'traumatised' by tragedy

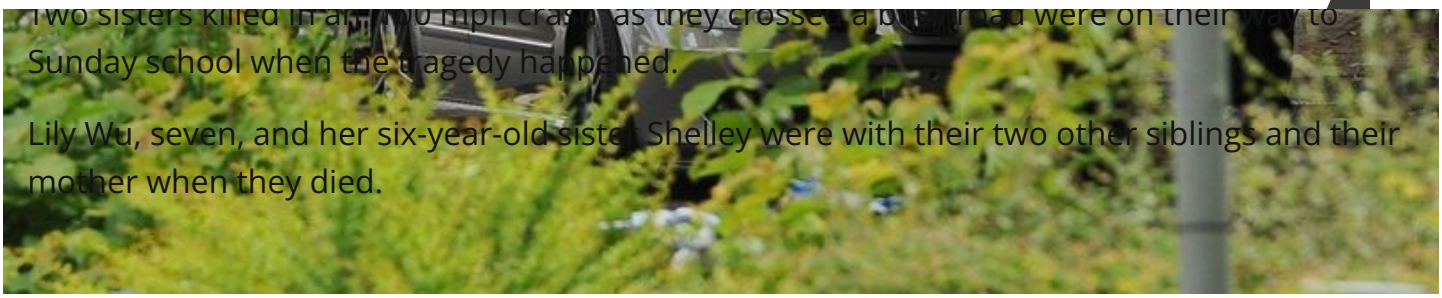
Lily and Shelley Wu, aged seven and six, died in hospital shortly after the crash in the Handsworth area of Birmingham yesterday

By **Martin Fricker** Senior Reporter & **Richard Wheatstone**

15:55, 22 JUN 2015 | **UPDATED** 17:16, 22 JUN 2015

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Two sisters killed in an [illegible] mph crash as they crossed a busy road were on their way to Sunday school when the tragedy happened.

Lily Wu, seven, and her six-year-old sister Shelley were with their two other siblings and their mother when they died.

The family were crossing the road to catch a bus to a local Chinese Sunday school when they were hit on Sunday lunchtime.

Mum Zhu Lan, 39, is fighting for her life in hospital and has no idea her two youngest daughters were killed.

Siblings Edwin, 13 and Catherine, 12, remain in a serious condition after suffering horrific injuries.

Their father Ming Jin Wu, 44, was at work at a local pizza takeaway when the tragedy happened and was last night at his wife's bedside.

A 34-year-old man **was arrested at the scene on suspicion of dangerous driving and remains in custody**.

The headteacher of the girls' school said pupils and staff have been left 'traumatised' by their deaths.

Avtar Singh Mangat MBE, head of Wilkes Green Junior School, said the pair were popular members of the school's infants section having moved to the area around two years ago.

He said: "It is an extremely sad day for us as a school and as a community. Our thoughts are of course with the family and as a school we too have been left deeply traumatised by the girls' deaths.



Tributes: Headteacher Avtar Singh Mangat said the school had been left "traumatised" by the tragedy (Image: Youtube/dscreationsTV)

"It is a difficult time for the children and the community as a whole. We discussed it with the children in assembly and are looking after their well-being giving them any support they need at this time.

"I was speaking to their mother just like week and it is just such a sad time."

The family's neighbour, who did not want to give her name, said: "I've just been to see Zhu Lan in hospital. She is in a coma and has no idea her two girls have died. It's just tragic.

"The other two children were badly injured but are going to be okay. One of them has a broken leg.

"The children go to a Chinese school on Sundays to learn the language. They do it every Sunday.

"I'm still shaking, I can't believe it. I couldn't stop shaking in the hospital all day.

"The father is at his wife's bedside. It really doesn't look very good for her and he has been told to expect the worse.

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Scene: Police are still investigating yesterday's crash

"Mr Wu is torn between being with his wife and how to comfort his older children.

"They have been told about their sisters but not about their mother's condition. It is such a terrible situation."

It is believed the tragedy happened as the family stepped out from behind a parked bus into the road.

Lily and Shelley were sent flying 35 yards down the road after being hit by the grey Seat Leon.

Both were resuscitated at the scene but tragically died from their injuries at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Eye-witnesses described hearing a bang and screaming following the incident.

Police are continuing to probe the crash.

Sergeant Steve Newbury, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, said: “We still continue to investigate the circumstances around this tragic incident and officers continue to liaise with the family of those involved.

“I am appealing for witnesses to come forward in particular I want passengers who were travelling on the number 101 bus at around noon along Grove Lane towards Oxhill road to call me or one of my team."

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