

4th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome back**

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who have sent in such encouraging and supportive emails over this difficult time. I have forwarded these on to all the staff and governors and they have been truly uplifted by your concern. I am very proud of our school community and how admirably everyone has responded. I received a photograph this morning of all the cars outside school and children walking in through the gates with smiling faces and it was so good to see. I understand that over 90% of the children are back in school today, which is great news. Thank you.

Tim Browne, the Director of Education for Gloucestershire and Sarah Scott, Director of Public Health attended school this morning along with Stephen Hirst and other local representatives. They were able to talk to parents and answer any questions, which was very reassuring and we thank them for their support.

We are a bit short staffed in the office. Mrs Kalinowski, who works part time, has very kindly agreed run the office with support from Julie Walford who has come from Deer Park School to help out. I am sure you will give them all the help you can.

All the adults in school will model good handwashing and teachers will be focusing on hand washing with the children to encourage ongoing good personal hygiene. We believe that with the increased cases of coronavirus across the country it is the right thing to be teaching children at this time.

Unfortunately, some local businesses and services we use are taking decisions inconsistent with the advice from PHE. Consequently, the children will not be swimming this week at Westonbirt Pool, but hopefully they will be back in the pool next week.

I hope to be back in school early next week but in the meantime Mrs Cartledge and Mrs Pike, our two Assistant Heads are very ably running the school and it is business as usual.

If parents have any queries or concerns please email the school office on: [admin@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk) and someone will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

Jo Woolley

Headteacher