

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

(Sent by email)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to extend a colossal thank you for your support in two regards. Firstly, for your help and determination with remote education through the national lockdown, as well as your on-going encouragement and perseverance which has meant that our children, on the whole, have been able to continue with their learning and acquisition of new knowledge.

Secondly, for your help in ensuring such a smooth return to our schools during the reopening process. I am delighted to be able to share that on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, all of our primary schools were fully open and saw 98.8% of our children attend – which is fantastic!

Our secondary schools are returning through a phased return, which is determined by the speed at which we can Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test all students. As with our primary schools, the attendance of those students eligible to return is remarkably high.

I wish to reassure you that we are doing all we can to stay safe and prevent the spread of infection. Whilst we acknowledge that the level of infection in our part of the south west region is very low, we must avoid the risk of complacency and continue to strictly adhere to our systems of controls to stay safe.

I wish to also take this opportunity to update you on the work of our trust and its proposed growth. The Secretary of State spoke last week of the government's belief in all schools being a member of a strong and sustainable family of schools. I am therefore, most pleased to inform you that Eggbuckland Community College and Austin Farm Primary school are likely to be joining the WeST family of schools at some point this calendar year. As soon as we have an actual date of transfer I shall share this with you. In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding this proposed merger please do not hesitate to get in touch and contact Shannon Burden, Executive Assistant, at sburden@westst.org.uk in the first instance.

Best wishes



Rob Haring  
CEO WeST

**STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL**