

4 January 2022

Dear parents / carers

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and the opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

We return to the Spring Term full of hope for the future, but again find ourselves dealing with the demands of COVID. More of that later in this letter.

I am delighted to to welcome the governors, staff, children and parents of The Beacon Federation to the WeST family of schools. These schools officially joined WeST on 1st January 2022, and we very much look forward to working collaboratively in the years to come. I am pleased to announce that Mr Mark Mitchell is the Headteacher of Ermington Primary School and Mrs Lucy French is the Headteacher of Ugborough Primary School. Mrs Karen Dixon remains the Headteacher of Manor Primary School but also has additional responsibility as a Hub Leader within WeST. Should parents have any questions regarding these schools, their first point of contact is the Headteacher of their respective school.

Plymstock School also sees a change in leadership with Mr Alan Yendell taking on the role of Acting Headteacher from the start of term.

Returning to the theme of COVID, to keep staff and children safe we will continue to use our established system of controls. Recent government guidance has seen a move towards greater flexibility in helping to keep schools open for face to face teaching. Each school will share its own arrangements, but our overarching framework includes:

- Strongly promoting attendance, whilst recognising that children should only come to school if they are well and do not display any symptoms
- Thorough cleaning
- Hand hygiene
- Ventilation
- Wearing of face masks in line with government recommendations
- Strengthened controls as to when visitors can attend a WeST school site
- Lateral Flow Device testing with staff and children as appropriate

I wish everyone a happy and safe 2022.

Yours sincerely



**Rob Haring**  
CEO