

# St Mary's Church of England Primary School & Nursery

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**Head Teacher : Cathie Lampert**

**Deputy Head Teacher: Beth Hamblin**

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22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I've recently been appointed Chair of Governors at St Mary's. I initially joined as a Parent Governor in 2017 which I have enjoyed very much and I feel privileged to be working with the school further in this new role.

My predecessor, Frances Butt was Chair for over 10 years and on behalf of the Governing Board I would like to thank her wholeheartedly for all her hard work and dedication to the role during this time.

For those of you who aren't aware, Governing Boards are an important factor within schools, operating behind the scenes. The school leadership team work on the day to day operation of the school, yet the governors oversee the strategic decisions, acting as a 'critical friend' and looking to the future and further development of the school. It's an enjoyable and rewarding role and we are very lucky to have a focused and dedicated team of governors here at St Mary's.

On the 1st August 2020 St Mary's officially became an Academy under the Bath and Mendip Partnership Trust. The Trust has a very similar ethos to ourselves and it seemed a perfect fit when we were looking to academise. Progress is being made with the new systems and procedures and everything is moving forward well. We have received a warm welcome from The Trust and they have been working closely with the school from the outset.

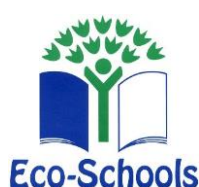
The pandemic has hugely increased the amount of work schools must undertake with some areas requiring daily review on top of the general day to day smooth running of the school. I think it's important to remind ourselves that the staff are not only a key part of St Mary's but they also have their own families and responsibilities outside of school. I would like to thank them all on behalf of the Governing Body for their dedication and for going above and beyond during this unsettled time. They have welcomed all the children back with such enthusiasm at the start of the academic year and it's been lovely to hear how positive they have felt having their classes back at school.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. St Mary's is constantly moving forward and we do so feeling positive about our future as a popular and progressing primary school.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing half term week. Look after yourselves and each other and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Gilliam



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