

## St Mark's C of E School

Shirley, Southampton SO15 5TE

Tel: 023 8077 2968

Email: [info@st-marks-southampton.org.uk](mailto:info@st-marks-southampton.org.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Bryant

Head of School Primary: Mrs Lorraine Hoad

Head of School Secondary: Mr Ben Godber



---

24 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share a personal update with you. Earlier this year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Thankfully, it was detected at an early stage, and I am currently undergoing treatment.

Although I had hoped to have returned to school by now, a few complications have meant that my recovery is taking a little longer than anticipated, and I remain away from work at present.

I am continuing to focus on my treatment and recovery, and I am hopeful that I will be able to return to school as soon as possible, even if I am not in school all of the time initially while I manage the final stages of treatment and any after-effects.

I am also very aware that this is something many of our families have experienced or are familiar with, and I greatly appreciate the understanding and compassion within our community.

I would like to say how much I am missing the school and, of course, the children. The school is a huge part of my life, and I greatly miss being part of the daily life of our wonderful community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all the staff, who have done a wonderful job in keeping the school running smoothly in my absence—especially Mrs Hoad and Mr Godber for their support and leadership during this time. I am incredibly grateful for their dedication and commitment.

Thank you also for your continued support and understanding

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Bryant  
Executive Headteacher