

19th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, Mrs East has been very unwell for the last few weeks. When we wrote to you last month we were hopeful that her condition would respond to treatment so that she would be able to return to work. It's with great sadness that we have to tell you that these hopes have not been realised. Her condition has deteriorated very rapidly and continues to deteriorate. She and her family have decided not to seek further treatment.

Until now, she has wanted to keep the details of her illness out of the public domain and shared only among her family and closest friends. However she now feels that the time is right to explain the position to the St Andrew's community.

It's important that you should know that she is deeply at peace with her situation, sad though it is. She is in positive spirits, surrounded by her family and close friends, and is in the best possible medical hands. She has written the attached letter to the children explaining that she expects to die soon, and the class teachers have discussed the letter with the children today.

We recognise that many of you will be deeply saddened by this news, and you may have concerns or questions that you would like to raise with the school. The Hall will be open for parents tomorrow morning (Thursday 20th) and a number of governors and members of the senior leadership team will be available to talk to you, and to pray with you if you wish. The Christmas service at St Swithin's church will take place as scheduled at 13.45 tomorrow, and there will be a further opportunity to talk or to pray after the service.

We will provide a further update at the beginning of Term 3 (8 January).

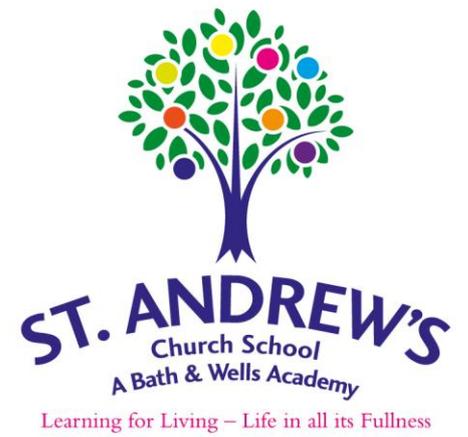
On a happier note, Mrs East was thrilled and delighted by the amazing blanket which you made for her. She has been feeling cold, so you could not have chosen a better gift for her! And the knowledge that so many of you contributed to making it means a great deal to her. She has asked us to pass on her heartfelt thanks, both for the blanket and for all the cards and gifts you have sent her.

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We wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Louise Leach and Pete Rogers

Chair and Vice Chair

Governing Body of St Andrew's Church School

