



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

23rd January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on the life of the school.

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks for supporting the work of the school council as they continue to make an impact on the school. It was brilliant to see Portland (Red) house enjoying the rewards of their hard work and to know that this whole process was underpinned by one of our four British Values (Democracy) which we promote alongside the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect. The next round of house points will be counted up in the week before February half term with the reward being awarded in the first week back after that holiday.

Foundation Stage children have been in the office every day this week and last with some superb work which they have been very proud to show us all. The progress which can be seen since the start of term is stunning and I know they will continue to demonstrate this as they progress on through the school.

For children in KS2 there have been further athletic opportunities which have been organised by our P.E. leader Mrs. Evans. Specialist coaches have been in working with the children on a range of activities including dance, gymnastics and (from AFC Bournemouth) football skills. There are also still spaces available in before and after sports clubs; please contact Mrs. Evans or the office for details.

Finally, in assembly on Thursday, KS2 children watched a video which outlined the scope of this year's 500 words competition. This is a national initiative which encourages children to write creatively, upload their texts and then see if their work finds favour with a panel of experts. Last year Julia in Y5 managed to get to the second stage of the competition with her first attempt...so we really hope you will support your child at home with this year's event. The deadline is 7 p.m. on Thursday the 22nd of February 2018.

More details can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4h26FXFQ4KfMV7VVSbJxY3g/500-words-2018>

I will write with more details next week but I do hope you can encourage your child to plan their story through the use of play, art, minecraft, written notes or models in order that they are raring to write in the next few weeks.

Yours faithfully,

R. Howard

Mr R Howard
Deputy Head.