



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

27th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

There has been a plethora of events and experiences since Monday but one of the absolute highlights was the visit to the whole school from Animal Logic illustrator, Sara Diaz. Sara worked with small groups of talented artists from across the school. They spent time learning the skill of critiquing each other's work before she gave them further advice on shading and detailing using pencil and colour. It was wonderful to see the confidence of the Foundation and KS1 children in particular as they took over the corridor in their Lego Ninjago masks...

Sara has also left us with a signed book on the "behind the scenes" story of the Batman Lego Movie (her most recent project for Animal Logic) for the school library. There are also some posters to give away as part of our "Week of Code" which will begin on Monday 4th December with a visit to the school from the Barclays Eagle Lab in Westbourne. A group of STEAM children got to grips with the 3 D printing technology there yesterday and are now primed to take their knowledge throughout the rest of the school. Our aim is to have the Barclays 3 D printer in school all week for children to observe, use and discuss. Try <https://www.tinkercad.com/> as a free software model which your child can get used to using in advance. They may then have an opportunity to print their design in 3 D (subject to conditions). **Our thanks to the Barclays Eagle Lab and Animal Logic for their time and generosity in really bringing learning to life at St. Mary's.**

Finally this week; some Y6 pupils accompanied my-self and Miss Dann to an evening lecture on recent developments in the study of the brain, presented superbly by Dr.Guy Sutton. Judging from the following poetic extract from Tommaso, it is clear that the synapses are firing:

Wild Wolves by Tommaso

The warm breath of the menaces chilled my spine

The Baron's last shots echoed throughout the lifeless forest

The wolves' serrated jaws were sharpened daggers ready to pierce my skin

Blood was in the air, untamed horses galloped for their lives

A growl

A shout

And the Baron was torn apart by the ravenous lupines,

Onwards we galloped.

Yours faithfully,

R Howard

R. Howard
Deputy Head.

