



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

12th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

As you may remember from last week, we are now in the process of trying to improve the homework system at St. Mary's. Following a feedback survey and a meeting held for parents, these are the proposals for the Autumn Term. I would like to thank those who took part in the survey and the meeting for giving up their time to help the school improve in regard to what can often become a vexatious subject.

Please find below the proposals for the Autumn Term only. At the end of this first term of the academic year I will send out another survey and conduct another meeting for parents in order to ascertain how these changes are being received at home.

Autumn Term-

- **Spelling/tables/number bonds/reading only for everyone from Y1-Y6. (Foundation to have own input).**
- **No topic work or projects in this term.**
- **The spellings to be given in a half term block e.g. "You will be tested on these 10 words on x date, the next week you will be tested on the following 10 words..." This will allow you to see the spellings for each week in advance, extend your child's spelling ability or offer more support as applicable.**
- **An extension activity set each week via email or web that will be at your discretion whether to attempt. This is likely to take the form of a logic puzzle, riddle or spelling challenge and will be based on the "low floor, high ceiling" model e.g. it will be easy to access at a basic level but take more dedication to show a really good outcome.**
- **The homework sheets to be glued into a dedicated homework book in order to evidence progress, show marking scores and ensure homework is not lost/left in trays to the extent that it is under the current system.**
- **All classes to set and collect homework on same day across the school. The days are to be decided-please bear with me. This should help those of you with children in more than one year group keep up to date with due dates.**



Creativity – Love – Respect – Spirituality

Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207 Website: www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk E-mail: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

I have tried to find the best route through the demands of home and school and am well aware that the above will not be universally popular. However, I would ask for your patience and feedback up to Christmas when the new system can be reviewed.

Some possible questions:

“What about the CGP books we had last year in some year groups?” These books will be looked at again in the review just before Christmas.

“Why are you making the focus so narrow next term?” As you will be aware, times tables and spellings are essential skills that every child will need. They are also the easiest to teach at home. Therefore the focus is on these skills to start the year on solid foundations.

“My child is already fluent at their tables, where is the challenge for them?” I will be starting the timestablesme.co.uk competition again in the Autumn term. The current set up is to test all tables from 2-12, including division, to a maximum of 50 questions with 0 wrong. What is the lowest time that can be achieved? Mangahigh also offers lots of online challenge.

“My child needs more help with spelling or tables. Who do I speak to?” Please speak to class teacher in the first instance.

“I want to extend my child with harder questions for spelling and tables, do you have any ideas?” Yes- there will be a meeting in September for parents/carers who feel they want to give their children a greater level of challenge. Advice will be offered for KS1 and KS2 children.

Finally this week, you will find a general school survey sent to you via email-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CYT38PC>

It only takes 2 minutes to complete and will give us valuable input. The survey is anonymous so please be honest and let us know your opinions.

Thank you again for your ongoing support,

R Howard

R. Howard
Acting Headteacher