



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Diocese of Plymouth

26th May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on Mrs. Armstrong's health and the life of the school this week. As mentioned in last week's update, we welcomed Mrs. Armstrong back to school today with a beautiful liturgy organised by Mrs. Betts. The staff and children were absolutely delighted to see Mrs. Armstrong back in school and the morning was finished off with a visit to every classroom to see how the school's improvement is progressing. As always, the impression made by the children was fantastic and we could not have asked for a more positive and uplifting end to the half term.

Although I have said it before, I wish to reiterate my gratitude for the kind messages and support offered in what has been a challenging time for all the staff here at St. Mary's. We anticipate that Mrs. Armstrong will join us on a phased return to work after the half term. I would ask that you continue to keep her, the Armstrong family and the wider school community in your prayers.

The next half term is traditionally even more busy and packed with events than the rest of the year. In cases of offsite visits and while on the playground it is important to note the following points:

- 1) Children should have sun protection applied to their skin before the start of the school day.
- 2) Hats and water bottles are permitted at the Headteacher's discretion.

This term is also traditionally a time when sometimes uniform begins to look tired and scruffy following a year of heavy duty use. As a parent myself I understand the way in which this can be a challenge. Please, though, can I ask that your child's uniform adheres to our school policy which can be found under the "Our School" tab on the website?

<http://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/uniform/70195>

Not only does a clear insistence on high standards of uniform reflect a pride in the school, it also ensures that the children do not feel anxious about keeping up with the latest trends in footwear or accessories while at school. Your understanding in this matter is appreciated.

Finally this week I would like to share with you the story of an inspirational person in Year One. Every other day she presents me with an extra sheet of maths questions which she has completed; these are usually based on number bond skills and she always gets them right. She has also been into the lunchtime club with other Y1 and 2 pupils whose performance in tables has been improving steadily as they play the easiest and most time effective game for learning and retaining these key facts:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



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While I am impressed with her maths skills, it is also her fun loving and energetic personality that make her a real star...she enjoys racing round the playground as much as doing extra arithmetic questions and it is this balance of academic and social that is so impressive. Given the events of the last week, it is essential to focus on the positives and with that in mind I wish you and your families a relaxing and peaceful half term break.

Yours faithfully,

R. Howard.

Acting Headteacher.

(Please remember that Monday 5th June 2017 is an INSET day and therefore children will return to school on Tuesday the 6th of June).