



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

30th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

The democratic process has been in full effect here at St. Mary's. Thursday morning saw a superb debate held in the KS2 assembly with Year 6 pupils taking an adversarial debating style to a very high level. The hall was split down the middle with Red/Yellow house facing Blue/Green. The arrival of Speaker Barret-Mead brought the house to order and, with Officers Graven and McNamara keeping us secure, the stage was set.

The debate was based on the idea of improving either the bank or the pond area and children from all year groups stood up to add their opinions to the discussion, which, at times, became heated but remained very focused on the question at hand.

Having led these assemblies all year I think it is a credit to the children just how little adult input was required. Not only did the democracy group plan, resource and rehearse independently, it was also great to see the confidence of the children in managing the "House" so that Parliamentary business could be attended to.

This week will see the Parliamentary loan box back in action as we take a version of this democratic process down to KS1 assembly. In other democracy based news, **BLUE House (Lulworth)** have voted to have a non-uniform day as their House Point reward. This will take place on **Friday 4th May** for Blue House only. Please ensure clothing is suitable for a day at school.

Last year we were very fortunate to have Dame Annette Brooke with us for part of the work we do on our British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect. Her insight into the role of an M.P. was inspirational and so this year, in line with our vision "Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ", we would like to build on that theme of inspiring speakers explaining their jobs to the children. A tentative date has been set as the 13th of July and the event would take place here in school. We would be looking for any working person in our parish community to be able to come in and set up a small table (with some props if possible) so that the children can find out the inside line on the widest possible range of careers.

The time commitment would be quite small, between one or two hours on that Friday afternoon and the whole event would be supervised at all times. Please consider if you could contribute to the "St. Mary's Inspire Event" in any way as without your support there is no way we will be able to give this opportunity to the children.

Getting a good job is a challenge that will continue to face all future generations so as well as considering the "Inspire Event" please also spend some time with your children at home working on tables, number bonds and spellings. A little practice every day really does pay dividends and makes sure your child is best equipped for their time here and on into the future.

"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"

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Finally, during a special liturgy on Friday morning, Mr. Rolston (the face of St. Mary's) was presented with his leaving gifts and a heartfelt send off from the whole school community. He will be missed by us all.

Yours faithfully,

R Howard

Mr. R. Howard.

Deputy Headteacher.