



## *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong*

*Diocese of Plymouth*

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, our Ofsted Inspection took place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The full report is now available to view on our website as well as the Ofsted website. Please contact the school office if you require a paper copy.

The headline judgment is that the school 'requires improvement'. There is no doubt that this is a disappointing outcome for our school as we have made many changes and improvements since the maladministration of the KS2 tests in 2013. Unfortunately, the impact of these changes has not yet had enough time to fully materialise and we are still struggling with a legacy of underperformance. Whilst inspectors acknowledged that "current leaders have halted this decline", they would not accept our evidence that we are still dealing with flawed data as a result of the previous leadership of the school.

As a school we have accepted the key findings of the inspection which then give a list of key actions. The school had already recognised the need to improve results and this year the KS2 test results in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling were all above the national average. The proportion of pupils who achieved the required standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined at the school in 2016 was 58% compared to the national average of 53%.

The Ofsted inspectors stated that "The school's core values which include respect, love, creativity and spirituality shine through all aspects of the school. Relationships between staff and pupils are strong. These positive relationships are built on trust and mutual respect." The behaviour of pupils was recognised as good. Safeguarding is also considered a strength of the school.

Inspectors recognised that "Increased monitoring, training and guidance by leaders is having a positive impact on improving the quality of teaching" and that "there is evidence that achievement is rising."

The areas for improvement are clear from the report. We will take on board the comments regarding our 'most able' to enable them to achieve the highest standards.

The inspection team also looked into the governance of the school at a local and trust level (Plymouth CAST). They recommended a review of governance based on this and will communicate the relevant outcomes to you in due time. Our Governing body remains fully supportive of the school as a whole and takes on board the need to review the way they work.

We would like to thank those of you who spoke with the inspectors as well as those that left written comments for them. There will be a further opportunity for parents and carers to discuss the report and its findings at a meeting with leaders and Governors of our school.

The staff, Governors and Plymouth CAST are remaining united in response to the inspection report, and I can assure all members of the school community that we will be working tirelessly to achieve the best possible outcomes for your children.

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Mrs Armstrong  
Headteacher



**Creativity – Love – Respect – Spirituality**

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