



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

23rd April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on the life of the school this week. Last month's snowfall has been followed by this month's heat wave and we have all been enjoying some time appreciating the outdoors here at school. You may have seen the recently renovated play equipment in the KS1 playground; the children have already been putting this to good use and have enjoyed the opportunity to use some of the other sporting equipment which has recently been unearthed during a clear up of the sports pavilion.

The reason for the spring clean is that the school is now offering an after-school club to work in tandem with the Early Bird morning care system. We are very fortunate to have the astro-turf available for weather like this and so the decision was made to base the club in the newly-tidied pavilion for the summer term.

This wraparound care offers a great deal of flexibility and is available to children across the school on a basis that can be decided by parents and carers in advance. I visited the "Night Owl" after school club earlier this week and asked for a report on this first week:

"We meet at the food tech room at 3:15 p.m. Then, we stay in there for a while so we can play and have snacks. After that, we come outside onto the astro and play games and get the equipment out and play with it. I love it here, we have lots of fun! The teachers are nice here too!"

By Alex and Ellie, Year 4.

If you would like further information about wrap-around care at St. Mary's please contact the school office.

Seeing the children from across the school age range playing together is always a pleasure and this will be a feature of the life of the school next week when the winners of the half-termly house point competition will be taking part in their self-selected reward. The points were really tight this time around with each house gaining over 720 tokens and the top two houses being separated by only 2 points. However, thanks to the girls in Year5 who methodically emptied, tallied and checked the results it was the BLUE HOUSE (Lulworth) who prevailed. The children will be voting on their reward this week and their decision will be communicated to you shortly.

Our British Values at St. Mary's begin with Democracy and this voting for the house reward is one of a number of ways in which this is demonstrated by the children themselves. This democratic process will be further strengthened by the recent arrival, from Westminster, of the Parliamentary loan box. This box contains a range of props which will be used in next week's KS2 assembly when the "house" debates an issue using the adversarial British system of democracy. KS1 children will also be given an insight into the Parliamentary process when the KS2 children who attended the Westminster expedition visit each class to impart their knowledge.

I look forward to sharing the results of these activities with you soon.

Yours faithfully,

R Howard

Mr. R. Howard.

Deputy Headteacher.