



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth

13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on the life of the school this week. The children and staff have been working hard for what has been a very busy half term. It has been a privilege to have visited all of the classrooms and see the progress that the children are making. I hope you will see this too when you come in for the parent information evenings on Monday and Wednesday next week.

In other academic news, I am pleased to share with you a new section of the school website which has turned out to be big hit with the children. If you navigate to the school's site and then click on CHILDREN then TAKE THE CHALLENGE- you will find a link to our favourite tables game! You know the one... There is also a link to a site which provides short, self-directed activities for our youngest learners; it's pitched perfectly for those just starting out in maths and also provides good consolidation for those in KS1. However, if you click the "30 second challenge" you will see 3 mental arithmetic challenges in the format below.

<b>13</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>÷2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>×7</b>	<b>+3</b>
	<b>÷5</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>×4</b>	<b>-13</b>	

The questions are updated every day and the children love to see how quickly they can perform the calculations mentally or, if necessary, with paper and pencil. Huge congratulations to Lucas and Felix from Y5 & 6 respectively who are the current champions and daily players.

Of course there is more to school than study so I have also enjoyed spending time discussing the plans for the sporting year with our new P.E. leader, Mrs. Evans. She has been working exceptionally hard to get herself acquainted with St. Mary's while also joining the P.E. leader network within Poole. As a result we are now looking for cross country runners within Y5 & 6 as well as talented gymnasts to enter a tumbling competition run by Mrs. Lovell. Mrs. Evans is also looking to provide extended provision for rugby alongside the popular football club on Friday.

Next week I hope to share with you some news that Miss. Shaw, Phase Leader for Lower Key Stage 2, has with regard to recognising and rewarding good behaviour and attendance.

I look forward to seeing you at the parent consultations next week and, please remember, if you are unable to make it to school on those dates or times you are welcome to make an appointment for another date or time; just contact your child's teacher through the homework diary or the school office.

Yours faithfully,

*R Howard*

Mr R Howard  
Deputy Headteacher