



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Diocese of Plymouth

12th June 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. Mrs. Armstrong joined us on Thursday for the first day of her phased return to work. She spent time with Mrs. Betts and myself while also speaking with the children and observing their behaviour around the school and in the playground. We look forward to seeing her back in school for another day next week when she will write to you directly via this weekly update letter. Please continue to keep Mrs. Armstrong, her family and the wider school community in your prayers as we move on into the final half term of this academic year.

Schools are always busy places in term time but at this time of year there is even more activity than normal as staff look ahead to new challenges and think about the future. I can, therefore, share with you that the following staff have decided to move on from St. Mary's at the end of this academic year. Mrs. Neal is leaving us to pursue new interests as is Mrs. Singleton. Mr. MorGan has been successful in applying for a position at a rural school in Dorset and Mrs. Perera has also taken the opportunity to move on to new interests. Having worked very closely with all four of them, I can say that we wish them all the very best of luck but we will really miss them too. It has been a privilege to have worked alongside such dedicated, professional people and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for the difference they have made to St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

New staff have been recruited to join our team in September and I will write to you shortly with details of this as well as the list of class teachers for each year group in September. Please also make a note of Friday the 7th July when the school will hold its transfer day; giving children and staff a chance to get to know each other before the Autumn Term begins in earnest. Speaking of the Autumn Term, please also make a note of the date for the children to return to school; it is Thursday the 7th of September. Staff will be receiving INSET training from Monday the 4th to Wednesday the 6th when no children will be allowed into school.

I am also pleased to share with you the feedback from our regular hired DJ at the KS1 Disco on Friday. He made a point of praising the children's behaviour; a message we hear often but it still reflects how proud we are of them as a school. Thank you to the PTA, who work tirelessly to raise funds that benefit all our children, the staff who gave up their time at the end of a long week and of course the parent helpers who ensured that a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all involved.

Finally this week, I would like to share with you the story of a visitor to the Headteacher's office who came in, rather timidly, with a plain brown Amazon packaging folder in her hands. I glanced out of the corner of my eye and was rather nonplussed. However, when she unfolded the origami like structure of the carton, I was absolutely amazed. Nestled inside were beautifully scribed times tables facts, written on paper and then glued neatly on to the interior faces of the packaging...absolutely amazing and a definite highlight of the day.



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Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207 Website: www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk E-mail: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

Why not see if your child can make a times tables revision resource while also practising their art/craft skills? They will need to practise first of course-

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> to start with and then:

<http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm> once they can consistently get 20 (at least-including on the division facts) on all their tables.

5 mins a day, every day, soon makes recall smoother and this then gives your child the very best chance of making the most of their mathematics education here.

Thank you for your continued support in teaching your child their times tables; it really is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

R Howard

Mr. R. Howard.

Acting Headteacher.