



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Diocese of Plymouth

2nd May 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 is feeling better and continues to recover at home. She has asked us to pass on her thanks to you all for the many kind gifts and messages of support that you have sent her. Please continue to keep both the whole family and the wider school community in your prayers.

As mentioned in my previous update, we are now in the position of making some real change to the governing body. The person driving this change is Mrs. Ann Harris, our new Chair of Governors, who has conducted a review of the governance at St. Mary's in line with the recommendations made by OFSTED. Please read her introductory note below:

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you as the Chair of Governors of St Mary's Primary School. I have been a governor for over 10 years and am currently a National Leader of Governance. In my working life, I was a teacher, Headteacher, school adviser and inspector.

At home, I am a practising Catholic and the National Vice President of the St Vincent de Paul Society. My husband and I have three daughters, who have blessed us with eight grandchildren – so I do understand the pressures of home and school!

As Chair, I will try to be visible around the school, most often on Wednesday afternoons, when I will be meeting with senior leaders. It is likely that we will be recruiting one or two new governors shortly. Any interested parent, or guardian, should contact me via the school office to arrange to meet and discuss the role.

I look forward to working with you, the parents and guardians, staff and governors to make St Mary's the best it can be.

With best wishes,

Ann Harris OBE

I am sure you will agree with me that we are very fortunate to have such an experienced leader of governance with us here at St Mary's.

Finally for this week, thank you for the increasingly punctual arrival of the children into school. There has been a noticeable improvement in this area but we still have more to do:

- Please think of those around you when setting children down from your car; if everyone who does this is efficient and quick it makes for a much calmer, safer start to the school day.
- If you are travelling on foot please use the time to keep rehearsing the tables facts appropriate for your child's year group as well as their spellings; this support from home will make all the difference to your child here at school.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Howard

Mr. R. Howard

Acting Headteacher.



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