



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Diocese of Plymouth

10th March 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 continuing to recover at home. I will be visiting her this weekend and will take with me the flowers, cards and messages of support that are still coming in. Thank you for your generous contributions to the collections and please continue to keep Mrs. Armstrong, her family and the whole school community in your prayers.

I hope that you found last week's links to effective maths resources useful. This week I have included a link that demonstrates the findings of a Department For Education report (2010) which shows "Parental involvement has a large and positive impact on children's learning." <http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/advice-for-families>

We will use some of the themes from this website to make our next "Family Maths" evening even more effective and engaging than the previous event. The date for this is to be confirmed-please watch this space. This work also ties in with the Homework working party that has been scheduled for Wednesday 22nd March from 6-7p.m.

I would also like to share with you some further details of the school's continuing journey to self-improvement. Last Friday a member of the school's governing body spent the whole day observing lessons, talking to children about their work and engaging with them on the playground. Next week will see subject leaders visit lessons, scrutinise books and talk to pupils about their work. Alongside this process, the review of governance continues to look at the areas for improvement which were identified by the inspection. I will update you as soon as any more relevant information becomes available and would also like to thank Mrs. Betts and Mrs. Rushton in particular for the enormous amount of work they have put into this process.

Another change you may notice in the school is that the office staff are moving in order to facilitate more effective working practice. Mrs. Jones will be pleased to answer your office enquiries in order that Mrs. Hazell can continue her support of the Senior Leadership Team without interruption.

Finally, some highlights from this week. Mrs. Wright has run a truly fantastic Fair Trade Week which has not only engaged the children but also prompted some real reflection on the position of privilege that we are in as a society. It has also been fantastic to see the progress of our Y6 children who continue to come in voluntarily before school for extra arithmetic lessons; my thanks to the Y6 Team who facilitate this and also give up their lunchtimes every day of the week to help any children who need academic support. I have also been visited by a stream of children from EYFS & KS1 who are intent on proving to me their success in counting on in twos and instant recall of 2, 5 and 10 times tables facts including division.

Their enthusiasm and humour are as welcome as the Spring sunshine.

Yours faithfully,

R Howard

Mr. R. Howard.
Acting Headteacher.



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