



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can I begin with a big thank you to all the parents and carers who are wearing masks when dropping off and collecting your children. It really does help to make us feel safer in school. I have updated our Covid 19 Risk Assessment which can be found on the website.



Please remember that your child can wear extra layers to ensure they are warm in school as we are continuing to make sure that the rooms are well ventilated.

It is essential that we know as soon as possible when a member of the family or a child tests positive for COVID 19 or is self-isolating, and we ask that even if this is in the evening or at weekend that you email the office email asap and we will make sure that it is regularly checked. [office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk)



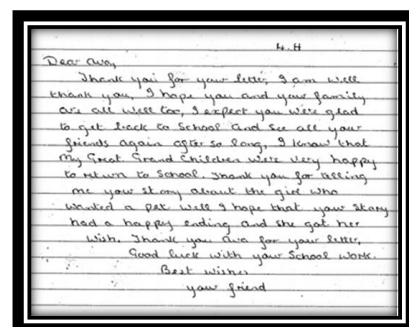
This week I attended a briefing with Julia Coleman (Service Manager School & Provider Standards & Support 0-19 for BCP), which was very informative and supportive with regards to the latest information on Covid 19 in this area. She also sent some information for parents with regards to where you can get practical help within Dorset. I have attached that information with this weekly update.

On a not so happy note I received a call from one of our neighbours this week saying that "some people were jumping on the bonnet of his car and throwing stones at it". I am absolutely certain that he must be mistaken but please could you be observant and make sure that your children do not go near driveways. Thank you very much. We have also received an email from a concerned parent who is worried about the lack of social distancing with groups of people walking together and quite often the older children too near to the younger children along Pound Lane. As we are keeping children in Year Group bubbles in school it is crucial that the whole school community adhere to the minimum 1 metre rule please. Your help with this would be much appreciated, thank you.

We have not had lots of children self isolating but those that have are working hard on the work set for them on 'Google Classrooms'. IXL is going well and children are sharing their certificates. As a school, the children have answered nearly half a million questions! Wow! I am regularly on the programme to see what the children have been doing. Well done to them all.

We had another lovely message from a member of the parish this week and it was lovely that Father John visited school and I was able to meet with him outside.

We have really appreciated the feedback we have received about 'Parent Consultations' which took place this week. There were some suggestions which will help us make it even better in the future eg possibly different year groups on different



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**"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"**

Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207

Website: [www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk)

E-mail: [office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk)

days. The teachers said it was great and they really felt they could give quality time to each family. Only a small % were unable to connect. If you had a problem then please call the office tomorrow as we can still arrange appointments up until Tuesday. If there is anything you would like to share with us about your experience please let us know by email. A special thank you is deserved by all the teachers for staying late for two evenings.



We had a super turn out to the PTA Virtual Coffee morning today for the Foundation Stage parents. Sixteen people arrived and we all had a good chat. One of the things that they felt they are missing is getting to know each other as a group of parents. So I have agreed to organise another virtual coffee morning for the Foundation Stage Parents and I will make sure it is up and running and then leave so that you can all have a chat and get to know each other. If any other year group would like me to do the same for them please let me know. If you would like to join the PTA there is still time, please let the office know. The PTA AGM will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. Here is the link:



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78842054307?pwd=R1p5TDE0emVBTjhjazYrQ09SU2ZYdz09>

Meeting ID: 788 4205 4307

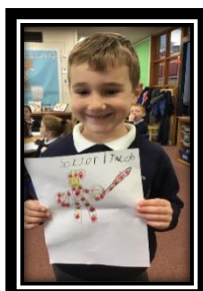
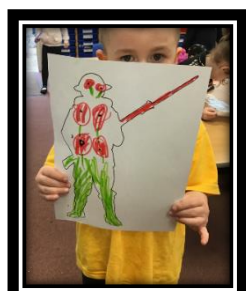
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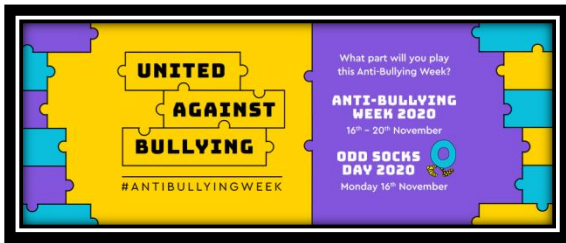
The response we had from children about 'Remembrance Day' was really heart warming and thoughtful. We listened to the 'Last Post' then had 2 minutes silence followed by Raveille. Today our Year 6 lead us in a moving 'Remembrance Liturgy'. Here are some of the 'Remembrance displays' shared with us in school. Well done to 'The Leigh Family' and the 'The Mackie Family' for their window displays.



Thank you to Mrs Jones for making my lovely bunting for my window display at home.

Please take a look at some of the art work that Year One have produced this week.





On Monday we will begin Anti-bullying week with 'Odd Socks Day'.

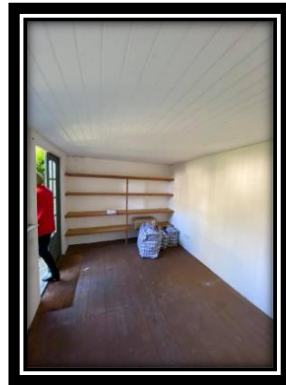
I am looking forward to seeing the fun socks!



I was recently offered the opportunity of a 'Garden Room' which I thought would make an excellent 'Health and Well-Being' Room. All we had to do was remove it and bring it to school. Easy I thought!

How wrong I was!

My big thanks go to Mr Armstrong, Mr Thomas and Mr Aldworth for spending 2 whole days taking the house down and bringing it back to school. Now the fun will be in spring when we try to put it back together again. If there are any builders out there with the expertise to help with this please let us know.



This weeks the 'House Points' were:

Red 98

Yellow 156

Blue 146

Green 148

We have had lots of positive comments about our idea for the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' when each class will have a day when in return for wearing their own clothes to school they will bring an item for a Christmas hamper. These hampers will then be distributed to families, people in the community and the food bank to help those who need a little bit of extra help. If you know of a family that you think would benefit from a hamper then please let the office know. More details will follow in Advent.

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Helen Armstrong  
Headteacher

