



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

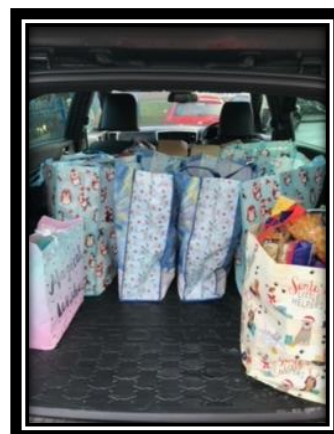
A big thank you to each and everyone of you for helping us to get to the last day of term as safely as we possibly could. You have all supported our staggered starts and finishing times and socially distanced when outside of the school. The children have adapted so well to their bubbles and apply themselves all the time to the rules and regulations. My sincere thanks to each and everyone of you.

Discussions between the DFE and PHE has led to a decision that schools will need to have a contact available for contact tracing for the school up to December 24th and then not again until the start of term.

Therefore if you or your child tests positive in the first week of the Christmas holiday, please email the school office on the day you receive the positive result, with details of when you or your child may have contracted the virus and whether you have been in contact with anyone from school. We will be checking the emails every day – up to and including Christmas Eve office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk



Yesterday with the help of my 'Big Elf – Mr Armstrong' I delivered the 'Christmas Eve Boxes' and 'Hampers'. I went to different care homes and members of the parish who are housebound. They wanted me to thank you all for being so kind and generous. We also treated some families with a little extra for over the Festive Season, some from our school and also some others in the community. Mrs Hazell, Mrs Wright and myself felt very honoured and humbled to have been able to help so many people. Thank you.



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

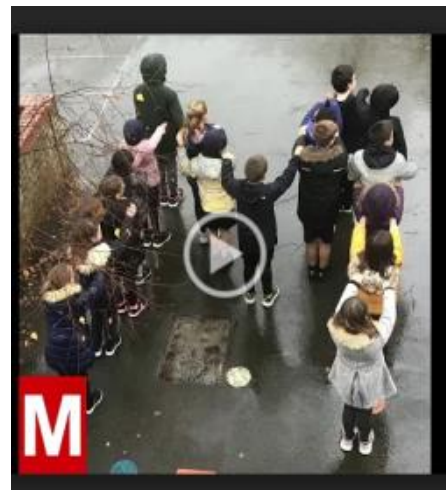
Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207

Website: www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk

E-mail: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

Today on the 'Virtual Advent Calendar' you will spot the staff of St. Mary's taking the toilet roll challenge to the next level! Enjoy it!. You will also have seen our Year 5s wishing us a Merry Christmas, some jokes from Year 3, Advent promises from Year 2 and art work from Year 1. You can find the videos on our website all the way to Christmas Day. www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk or on twitter [@musicalstmarys](https://twitter.com/musicalstmarys) Once again please can I say a big thank you to Mrs Wilson for producing them all.



The Pantomime and Virtual Santa was a treat which all the children enjoyed. Once again, a big thank you to the PTA for organising these events for us. We also enjoyed our Christmas lunch and party afternoon.



This week we have had problems with the “puddle” on Pound Lane where the children in our Foundation Stage enter school. We have been in touch with BCP and Councillor Felicity Rice. As a result we received an email last night which stated that the ‘Rights of Way Officer’ is going to ask Streetscene to look at it asap and resolve the issue. Thank you to all of you who called the council and supported our corner, it is very much appreciated.



This week we received information about ‘Dr Bike’. The opportunity to bring your child’s bike to school to be serviced. We have called to book a slot and will let you know details in the new year.

Congratulations to Harrison in Year 3 on being awarded these swimming certificates. Great work Harrison!

House points were:

Red 253

Yellow 204

Blue 246

Green 231



Well done Portland!

Thank you for all the lovely messages and gifts that we have received this week. My special thanks go to all the staff who have given more than 100% all term. They have worked tirelessly and I know that you all appreciate all that they have done to ensure that your children have the best education possible.

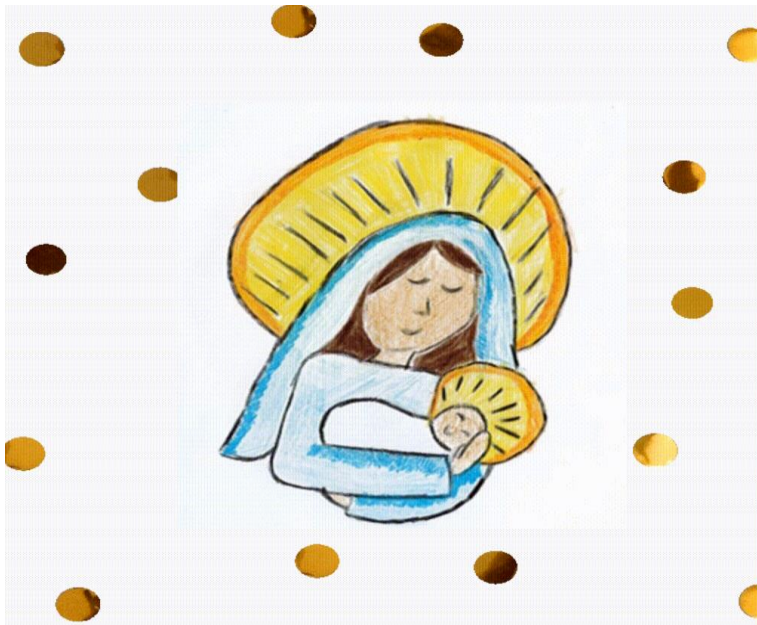
We have received lots of supportive appreciative messages from parents and carers this week and would like to share some with you:

“We just wanted to thank you all for bringing all our little ones safely through this term at school. It must have been so stressful at times to complete the great load of work that’s always required with all the additional challenges that the pandemic has brought. All our children have felt safe and happy as ever at school and it’s testament to the planning and organisation put in place and the positivity shared by their teachers.”

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"There are no words to thank you enough for taking great care of our children in this moment that we are going through. We thank you for all the support so far."

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Warmest Christmas Wishes

From
St Mary's Catholic
Primary School



We all know that Christmas 2020 will be different with many of us having to sacrifice seeing family and loved ones. I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with happiness for you all. I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher