



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

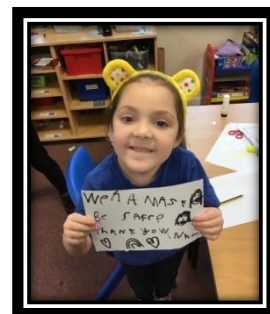
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are half way through this second lockdown and hopefully it is going to have a positive affect on the number of Covid 19 cases across the country. I want to thank you once again for your support in ensuring that we are all feel as safe as we possibly can during this pandemic. If you would like to speak to a member of staff on the school gate then please can I ask that you wear a face covering.

This week I received a wonderful picture from Marnie in Year 1. I am sure you will agree it is a great reminder to us all to continue to wear our masks and hopefully it will make you smile. Well done Marnie!



Please remember that it is essential that we know as soon as possible when you get the results of a test back for a member of the family, and we ask that, even if this is in the evening or at weekend, you email the office email asap and we will make sure that account is regularly checked (office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk)

This week we participated in 'Anti-Bullying Week' which began with all the children coming to school wearing their 'Odd Socks'. Even Millie in Year 3, who had to self-isolate before an operation, sent in a photo of her odd socks. All the children have participated in activities to raise awareness. We ended 'Anti-Bullying Week' with a powerful liturgy presented by Year 5 who shared with us the message of how unique and different we all are. Most importantly that we should be proud of our differences and give strength to those who may be experiencing a difficult time at the moment. Year 5 proudly shared with us that we at St. Mary's are a family, a family who inspire each other to learn in the light of Christ. Well done Millie and all the children in school. Can you spot my odd socks?



We are having great success with the children completing their homework on IXL. Thank you for your support with this. This week I received a certificate to say that the children at St Mary's have completed 490,000 questions. I wonder if we can get it to half a million over the weekend! Please remember that if your child is self isolating, but are well, they should be completing school work online.

As a school we are delighted to have adopted "The Write Stuff" approach to teach writing. It builds the children's ability to write effectively using ambitious vocabulary. This example of ideas from Year 3 certainly shows how well it works!

This week we were fortunate to receive a letter thanking us for the brilliant work we do for service families. They also enclosed a set of resources which parents have



"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

found useful in supporting children during challenging times. These books have been passed to Mrs Wright, our Pastoral Care Worker, who will use them with all our children. Thank you to the Naval Federation.



On Wednesday the PTA held their AGM via Zoom. We were pleased to have 10 parents at the meeting. A special thank you was given to Mrs Aspin who has stepped down from the committee after many years of service. I am very grateful to Rosie Lockyer who has agreed to stand of Chairperson for one more year. Lucy Culkin has also agreed to stand as treasurer for one more year. Thank you to Angela Stockley who agreed to be our new secretary and to Mrs Hinves who agreed to be our staff committee member, as well as all of the other members of the committee.

The PTA also discussed some events that they are trying to arrange before Christmas. The 'Break the Rules Day' sounds like naughty fun for all the children! They are also planning to decorate the outside of school to make it festive for us all. And they are busy planning a special Christmas treat for all the children. Ssshhh!



We have organised another virtual coffee morning for the 'Foundation Stage Parents' Friday at 11am. I will come along and then leave you all to chat and get to know each other. The invite is below:

Topic: Foundation Stage Virtual Coffee Morning and Chat

Time: Nov 27, 2020 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77033881870?pwd=VzJXR25JZnVzd2RVczFBYzB2Sm9iQT09>

Thank you for the offers of help to rebuild the 'Garden Room'. We will be in touch in the Spring when hopefully the weather will be good enough to put it back together.



This weeks the 'House Points' were:

Red 228

Yellow 167

Blue 241

Green 165

Finally we have been asked by the Diocese to support the work of the Catholic Children's Society. If you think you can help I have attached a poster and sponsorship form to promote the Catholic Children's Society sponsored 'Sleep on the Floor for One Night' over the Christmas holidays with this weekly update.

CAN YOU IMAGINE SLEEPING
ON THE FLOOR EVERY NIGHT ?



It's hard to believe that in this day and age, there are children who do not have a warm and comfy bed to sleep in every night ! In fact, one in five children living in the south west are living in poverty, and in parts of the region poverty is even more severe. Some areas in our Diocese actually fall into the top 10% of the most deprived areas in England.



Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Mrs H Armstrong
Headteacher