



# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth*

10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing you all a very 'Happy New Year' and all good wishes for 2020. The children returned to school with enthusiasm this week and we began the week with a liturgy based on the Gospel of the 'Wise Men'. The gifts that the wise men gave were very expensive. We discussed how you don't have to spend lots of money on presents to make people happy. We give gifts to people who are special to us. Just like the wise men we can also give gifts to Jesus to show him that he is important in our lives. Unlike the wise men we don't have to spend lots of money. We all have special gifts that we can offer such as singing or dancing, drawing pictures or telling stories. We can be kind, or funny, or able to listen. Some of us are good at sharing or helping others. This week the children are thinking of the Gospel Value of Creativity and how they can share their 'gift' and 'talents' with others. What a great way to start our New Year in school. Next week we will be awarding stickers to children who have shown witness to the value of Creativity.

# CREATIVITY



When Mrs Betts moved on to her new post she gifted us a very special statue of Mary as we did not have one. Father John came into school and blessed the statue during a very special liturgy. Over the holidays Mr Aldworth has built a plinth for the statue at the front of school. Thank you to him for his time and for producing such a special focal point for us at the front of school.

Thank you to the 110 (36%) of parents who have completed the parent questionnaire based on the Catholic Life of the school this week, the closing date will be Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> January. If you haven't yet managed to complete it please could you take a few minutes to answer the questions and send the form back to school. Your thoughts and opinions are very valuable to us. Thank you.



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**Catholic Life Parent Questionnaire - November 2019**

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

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Miss Howard (RE Lead) and the Mini Vinnies have been working on ways to help us to try and live by Gospel values. These values are what Pope Francis has called the “identity card” of the Christian – the way you’d live your life and what your relationships would look like if you were following Jesus. These values are presented to our school community at assemblies and liturgies and explored throughout the working week in the classroom. When we come to celebrate achievement in the school, we recognise first and foremost those who have witnessed to Gospel values, as well as recognising excellence in other areas.

These shields which have been designed by different children across the whole school will form part of our ‘Gospel Values Trail’. Look out for them when you are next in school and if you would like to do the trail yourself after school one night then please let the office know.

### Gospel Values Trail

*As you explore the school look out for the shields.*



*Read the clues to discover the missing words.  
Then place the words in the sentences to read a message about the school and its values*



I received a copy of the Catholic Children’s society Newsletter this week. They have been a great help to some of our families over the past year. I attach a link to the website if you feel that you could help their fundraising.

<https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/about-us/>

Well done to all the choir and Mrs Wilson who helped to raise money for the Poole Hospital Elf Appeal by singing at the hospital in the lead up to Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Mrs Armstrong  
Headteacher

