



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a busy week we are all set to welcome the children back to school. We cannot wait to see them all and have made a 'Welcome Back to School video' which you can share with your family by clicking this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AplnTYYCBKfudXwOE0aT60gLmkcBAQzY/view?usp=sharing>

We hope it will help diminish any anxieties that you and your children may be experiencing and replace them with excitement to get back to school.

I have updated the school risk assessment which has been signed off by Plymouth CAST. This has been placed on the school website.



https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/safeguarding_and_pastoral_care/92397

I just wanted to remind you of a few key points. The same times for the staggered starts and finishes will apply. I know you will all be trying your very best to ensure that your child arrives within their set time slot to ensure the safety of all the bubbles and I thank you for this. Our Risk Assessment also states that we will remind all parents to go straight home after drop off and pick up. We have replenished the signs on the gates and the staff will hold up sign to let you know which year group can enter through the gate.

F2 and Years 3 and 6	8:35 – 8:45	15:00
Years 2 and 4	8:45 – 8:55	15:10
Years 1 and 5	8:55 – 9:05	15:20

The children can wear their PE Kits on their PE days as follows:



F2	Tuesday	Year 4	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 1	Thursday & Friday	Year 5	Monday and Friday
Year 2	Tuesday and Wednesday	Year 6	Thursday and Friday
Year 3	Tuesday and Wednesday	Please don't forget to provide your child with warm dark coloured tracksuit, no large logos please, until we have warmer weather.	

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

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As before, there will be a big emphasis on social distancing, hand washing, and ventilation. We would really appreciate it if this weekend you could remind your child about keeping their distance and remind them to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly. This will really help the staff in school. We would also remind parents that you will need to continue socially distancing from other parents when dropping off and picking up, and would ask that you wear a face covering. We have marked a 2 m social distanced line on the outside of the gates to help everyone with remembering to socially distance.

We understand that you will have questions and want to share information with the class teacher but to ensure the safety of everyone we are asking that whilst we are in lockdown that if you have a message to give you send it to school via email. If you need to speak to the class teacher, or any other member of staff, please call the office and they will ring you back as soon as possible. You can also use the buzzer on the gate to leave a message with our office staff for a teacher to contact you. We encourage staff to arrive and leave school promptly to enable a thorough cleaning of the building to take place so this would really help us to ensure this. All the teachers have access to your home numbers after making the welfare calls home so they will most certainly call you back.



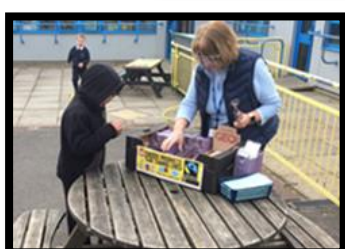
Is it time for a new and more active you to head back to school? To support the full opening of schools and colleges on Monday, BCP are reviving last year's successful 'new you' active travel to school campaign. This will be focussed on getting more adults and young people to embrace healthier, safer and greener travel, while also reminding those who use public or dedicated school transport to bring their facemasks. Please send any photographs of your green journey to and from school into the office that we can share on social media.



Congratulations on a great week of work in the 'Google Classroom' we will continue to use the classroom to set homework and it is another platform where children can contact their teacher if they need to. Also if your child has to self-isolate then the work for the day will be posted in the classroom for them to access. Thank you for all the support you have given your children during this lockdown. I know it has not been easy but you have all been brilliant.

Over the past 2 weeks we have participated in 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. We usually hold a Fairtrade café but this was not possible so Mrs Wright organised a tuck shop in school so the children could buy some Fairtrade products. This was after learning about how the climate change affects the workers and farmers abroad. Fairtrade gives them higher income so they can meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges of climate change. Mrs Wright and Mr Lakatos shared a brilliant video where lucky Mr Lakatos got to drink an amazing Fairtrade Hot Chocolate with lots of cream and marshmallows on! If you missed it here is the link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XpLeJBD6x8pDk5C6liCr46aCh8C9HgbH/view?usp=sharing>



The classrooms were full of great photographs on yesterday for World Book Day and it was great to see the sharing of books, children dressing up as a word or a character. We had lots of entries for the "Guess the Word" competition? and that has been sent out to all families. Here are a selection of entries. Well done to everyone.



Look at the what the Year 3 Bubble made, huge front covers of their favourite book!



There was an interesting article on 'Newsround' this week. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56211735>

Good news... watching telly could help your reading skills!

Studies have shown that watching your favourite TV show **with the subtitles on** might double your chance of becoming a good reader!

With many of you having to **spend a lot more time at home** recently, TV viewing levels have increased.

But a new campaign called "Turn On The Subtitles" suggests you can get more out of watching your favourite shows if you do just that - turn the subtitles on!

The answers to the staff 'Cook Off/Bake Off' are attached. Did you get them right?

An advert was sent out this week as we have a vacancy for a Governor. Please if you think you would be interested in this role get in touch with me or our Chair of Governors, Mrs Culkin, via the school office.



I am pleased to share with you that there are lots more house points this week. Thank you to you all for contributing.



Red - 405

Blue -455

Green - 469

Yellow - 400

Please could you keep a member of our school family in your prayers as they battle to fight off coronavirus.

Unfortunately I will not see you in person next week but I will be thinking of you all and want to reassure you that if you have any worries at all please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher

