



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

6th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write this letter amongst the busyness of the preparation for our 'Christmas Sparkle' this evening. Thank you to all the parents who have offered to help. We are really looking forward to hearing our Key Stage One Choir sing. They have had a busy day today as this afternoon they have been out singing at the 'Horizons Care Home'. I know that you will all enjoy the festive spirit of the Sparkle and thank you once again for your generosity.



Last Friday we had our Autumn Visit from the Education and Standards Manager from Plymouth CAST. It was a full day which involved lesson observations, book scrutinies, talking to staff and children, monitoring records and documents. The purpose of the visit was "to evaluate the effectiveness of the quality of education and safeguarding". She reported that Leaders benefit from a systematic approach to monitoring that utilises the skills of all those who have leadership responsibilities in the school, particularly in core subjects.

We had identified reading as a priority and she agreed with our decision to introduce ReadWriteInc (a robust systematic, synthetic phonics programme). She also supported our move towards Accelerated Reader due to the lack of a scheme for older readers. We are pleased that with the support of the PTA we have been able to purchase both these schemes. Thank you to the PTA and we look forward to sharing ideas with you on how you can use these schemes to support your child with reading.



Accelerated Reader™

At the end of the report she wrote "The Catholic ethos permeates through the work of the school. This helps to provide a sound and ethical programme to promote pupils' personal development very well. All of this contributes to a strong family ethos where pupils are right to say they feel safe." I know that she wrote this because when she asked a child if I was going to send my Year 4 son to this school what would you say to him about your school and the child said, "I would welcome them to our school family". It is always lovely to hear how our children talk so proudly about our school. They are a credit to you.

The health, wellbeing and fitness day on Wednesday was a great success. It was great to see all the children wearing their sports gear and all the children participated in 'The Race for Life', 'Fit4schools' workshop, 'AFC Bournemouth' workshop and many other activities.

My thanks to Mrs Evans and all the teachers for organising all the other activities. The children loved being active all day.



"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



Congratulations go to Paige in Year One on her Cheerleading medal and to Finley in FS2 for being the 'Player of the week' at Poole Rugby Club.

Last night I attended the Poole schools' Music Association Christmas Concert. I was filled with pride as I watched our children sing on the stage with 400 other children. My favourite song was a new version of "Away in a Manger" which sounded amazing from the audience. Well done to them all.



You received a parent questionnaire based on the Catholic Life of the school this week. 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.

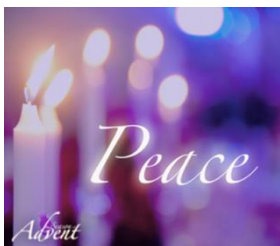


St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Diocese of Plymouth

Catholic Life Parent Questionnaire - November 2019



As we prepare for the second week of Advent we continue to think about getting ready for the coming of Jesus.

The message in our liturgy on Monday will be that in preparing for Jesus' coming at Christmas, we should find '**Peace**' in our hearts and in our relationships. Peace is one of our Gospel Values.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher