



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

21st September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

My first piece of good news this week is that we have had a visit from Miss Shaw and baby Violet, they are both doing really well. We also heard from Mrs Watts and she is recovering well following her operation.

This year for the first time our Foundation Stage Teachers and Teaching Assistants carried out home visits to meet all the children in their own environment. I am pleased to report that these visits were a great success and I wanted to thank all the parents and carers for being so welcoming and inviting.

Raymond Friel, the new CEO of Plymouth CAST, is providing an opportunity for you to have a say on the mission, values, principles and behaviours which will bring about a step change in the quality of education in CAST schools, inspired by the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church. The governors are meeting on Monday evening and will put together a plan of how best to collate your thoughts and opinions. We will send more information on this next week.

St Mary's is about to become a Research Partner School for Hodder Education by taking part in a trial of new termly assessments in Maths and Reading for Years 1-6, designed to measure progress and to familiarise children with SATs-style questions, content, format and layout at their own age level so that they are used to these by the time they reach their national tests. More information about this trial is included in the attached letter.

You will have received a list of diary dates this week which will hopefully help you plan for key events throughout the school year. May I remind you that you are welcome to invite family members to our Masses and liturgies and you are all welcome to stay for coffee afterwards. We are also hoping that members of our parish family will also come along to these events.

This week Year 4 had a great time at Paultons Park learning about 'Forces' and Aoife was successful on getting a slot on BBC Radio 2 to share her experience. Well done, Aoife.



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

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Our Year 4 children also had a visit from AFC Bournemouth and took part in the 'Back to School Campaign'. They were delighted and inspired with a visit from Nathan Ake and Jordan Ibe.



I am also delighted to share with you the names of the children that brought their 'Reading Challenge Certificates' this week. Well done to Evan, Byron, Alexander O, Nadia, Natalia P and Natasha.

Please don't forget to follow us on Twitter @stmaryspoole as we are posting information daily.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher