



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth

8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today I visited Reyes from Year 5 who is in Southampton Hospital. He is seriously ill and I ask that we all keep him and his family in our prayers.

As you know, our school supports CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. With CAFOD, we believe that poverty is not part of God's plan and that, as a Catholic community, we should not give up on the world's poorest people. On **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** we will be collecting money for the CAFOD Family Fast day. There will be a collection box in each room for the children to put in their donations. To help the children remember to bring in their donations we are allowing them to wear their own clothes for the day.

We are also challenging our children to give it up this Lent – to give up something they like (just like Father John talked about on Ash Wednesday) and donate the saved money to help build a better world. The collection boxes will stay in each room throughout Lent so that the children can bring in their donations



Last Monday, 14 of our Year 6 children, accompanied by Mr Lakatos, Mr Rickman and Mrs Culkin, had an amazing day, visiting the Houses of Parliament in London. The visit began with a film that explained what life was like before we had a democratic system and then it went onto how Parliament became what we know today. The children then had a tour of Parliament which included both the House of Lords and House of Commons! It was a thrilling experience to be in the room where so many of our leaders from the past and present have made so many laws and decisions that affect each and every one of us today. The children learnt what it takes to be allowed to sit in the House of Lords and why the Queen is not allowed to enter the House of Commons. The tour included a visit to other rooms in the building which all have a particular use. The day ended with a brief walk over the river Thames and of course a visit to the gift shop was essential! The children, who worked hard to earn a place on the trip, came away with a memorable experience and a wealth of knowledge on how democracy works in Britain. Here are some of Alexander's photos.



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

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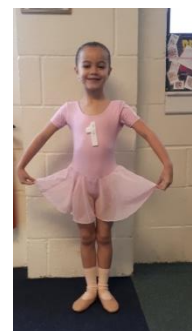
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Thank you for your support with World Book Day this year. It was great to see the children and staff in their costumes. They all listened to stories read to them by a different teacher and during the day they took part in different book related activities in the classroom. The response to the 'Book in a Box' was amazing and we had over 80 entries. The detail and the amount of work that must have gone into them was tremendous. Here are some of the winners. Well done to all.



Congratulations to Zuzu, in Year 2, who achieved a very high distinction for her first ever ballet exam.



Well done also to Ollie in Year 5. You represented St. Mary's Catholic Primary School really well last Saturday as the referee's mascot at the AFC Bournemouth v Manchester City game.



Excellent news that Isabella in Year 2 was fortunate enough to take part in London fashion week. She had an amazing time walking for several designers.



Yours faithfully,  
*Helen Armstrong*

Helen Armstrong  
Headteacher