



# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth*

23rd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week has flown by at St. Mary's and all the children were excited to come into school today wearing their own clothes in return for a prize for the 'Sparkle'. The children look so different when they are not in school uniform.

The PTA would welcome all your help with this event next week. If you think you could help run a stall for 30 minutes then that would be very much appreciated. Please visit their Facebook page for further information.

This week the children in Years 1-6 took part in the trial of the new standardised termly tests for Maths and Reading. They are designed to measure progress whilst familiarising children with SATs-style questions, content, format and layout. The tests increase in demand each term and provide a clear picture of progress throughout the year. We do not mark the tests in the trial but we were able to complete a questionnaire as to our thoughts and opinions about the papers.



On Wednesday evening, a group of Year 6 children were given the opportunity to attend another Lytchett Lecture with Miss Dann and Miss Lomas.

The lecture was called 'The Nature of Consciousness' and it was led by Dr Guy Sutton from Nottingham University Medical School.

Everyone reported that it was a fascinating lecture!

We continue to try to organise a walking bus which will collect and walk the children into school in the mornings from two stops: the top of Pound Lane and the bottom of Devon Road. If you think you could help with this please let the office know.

This week we have also been asked by parents about the possibility of a zebra crossing on Pound Lane. We have been in contact with Mr Ellis from the Road Safety Team at the Borough of Poole and will keep you updated on any progress with this. Please contact the school office if you are in favour of requesting the Borough to look further in to this issue.

Maksymilian was very proud of his swimming certificate and badge this week. He had achieved level 3. Well done!

This week, I visited Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Paignton. It reminded me of the importance of 'The Vision of Plymouth CAST':



#### *The Vision Statement*

*The Church insists on the highest standards of academic achievement in its schools, so that our young people leave us as 'agents of change' – educated and caring people who have the qualifications, knowledge and skills they need to flourish as human beings and make the world a better place.*

*Inspired by our Teacher, Jesus Christ, and his good news to the poor, we have a commitment especially to those who are disadvantaged. We are determined that a child's start in life need not determine their future. We are committed to the well-being of the earth, our common home, inspired by the example of Pope Francis: to live wisely, think deeply and love generously.*

*In all our schools we will develop a culture of high expectation and aspiration, based on our fundamental belief in the dignity of all human beings. We want all our pupils to flourish in safe, happy and enriching environments, taught and supported by adults who are skilled, motivated and committed to our shared vision and values.*

*We will work together as one Trust, one family of schools, a community inspired by a vision for excellence. We commit ourselves to deepen our mission and raise standards in order to provide an excellent Catholic education for every child in our care.*

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Helen Armstrong  
Headteacher