



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again for your continued support and vigilance with regards to Covid. This week we received a message from Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health BCP/Dorset.

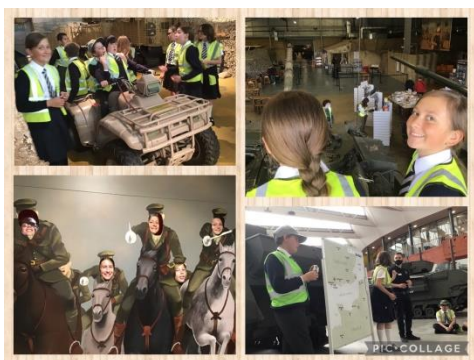
“Over the past few weeks, we have seen COVID-19 cases increase quickly in our local area. We are starting to see more cases amongst school communities, and I’d like to thank you for your continued hard work in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The recent increase in cases is a reminder of why it’s so important that we must keep going with all the measures we have in place to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in our schools and the wider community. These measures have been successful so far – it is inevitable that increased cases in the community will result in more cases in schools, but the processes you have been following prevent larger outbreaks and disruption to school provision. It’s really important that we keep these up throughout the last few weeks of term.”



As a result of an increase in the number of cases it has been decided to cancel the transition days for the Year 6 children to secondary school. Each school is hoping to do something virtually as as they send details we will pass this onto our Year 6 families. We held our ‘New Parents’ meeting on Wednesday evening via zoom and were thrilled that over half of the parents came. We were able to record the meeting and will put it on our website for other new parents to watch. As the classes in school cannot go into another bubble what we intend to do if for the new class teacher to go and spend some time with their new class. We are just finalising the classes for next year and will share this with you in the week of the 5<sup>th</sup> July.

This week we have been fortunate to start educational visits.



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

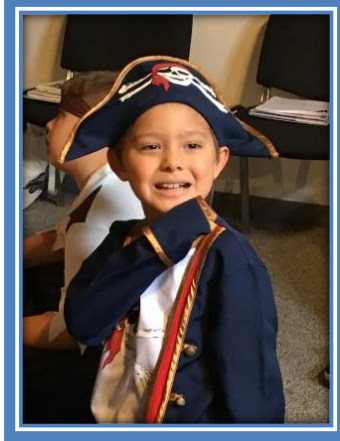
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All the visits have been fully risk assessed and I cannot thank the teachers enough for putting in all the extra effort and lots of their own time to make the trips possible for the children. Year 6 went to 'Bovington Tank Museum' and Year 2 went for a 'Pirate Day' at 'Scaplens Court'. It was wonderful to hear the buzz as they left school and arrived back.



As a Headteacher it is the most amazing feeling when you get positive feedback and this week we have had lots and I am over the moon. The day after the visit to the tank museum I received this feedback

"I just wanted to drop you a quick email to say how much we enjoyed your visit yesterday. The staff are still talking about it today because you made such an impression. The teachers were really organized and engaged with the sessions. The children were really enthusiastic and asked lots of interesting and thought provoking questions. Their behavior and listening skills were great as well".

This was lovely about the Year 2 'Pirate Day'

After standing at the gate again this morning I felt the need to email my thanks and appreciation. The buzz and excitement was palpable. The amazing school trips that have been organised by the teachers at this busy time of year have been so welcomed by the children and parents.



Our 'congratulations' go to Mr Thomas this week. In September 2019 he began his journey on a Diocesan Leadership Course – 'Aspiring Leaders - Call to Radical Leadership'.

He completed the course throughout lockdown and on Thursday he received his certificate from Canon Mark O'Keefe, Sr Judith Russi and Kevin Butlin the Director of Education from Plymouth CAST, at Buckfast Abbey.

I was proud to be there to witness this as I was a mentor to other candidates.



You will remember in an update a few weeks ago I shared with you that Mrs Eddy is leading our participation in the national initiative which aims to strengthen community connections with Care Homes.

We have initiated links with Magna Care Home in Wimborne. They are hoping for our help and support with their 'Our World Rocks Project'.

Their aim is to create a visual colourful rock display for their residents in the garden. The more colourful and positive the better! It is also linked to National Care Home Open Week and Celebrating National Thank you Day for all the work and help from staff, families and the communities during this difficult time.

The residents will be painting rocks and pebbles on the 30th and they need our contributions by the 2<sup>nd</sup> July which only gives us a week, but I know you will be desperate to help such a worthy cause. If you do this activity with your child please could you send in a photo of them paint the rock and we will share this with the residents at Magna Care Home.

Please help us support this project and send in your decorated rocks to school by next Friday.



I am pleased to share with you that there are lots more house points this week. Well done everyone!

**RED – 438**   **BLUE - 408**   **GREEN – 416**   **YELLOW - 362**

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Helen Armstrong  
Headteacher

