



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been really pleased with how the children have adapted to returning to school. They have been eager to learn and keen to share their experiences. Our first 'Zoom' Liturgy with full classes on Monday was wonderful and I am pleased to share with you that our average attendance for the week is 98%. However, we have noticed how tired the children have become as the week has progressed but we are sure that after a restful weekend at home they will be ready to bounce back again.

The children have got back into the routines of washing their hands thoroughly and regularly. Thank you for helping with this. Please remember that the rooms are well ventilated at all times so your child might need to wear extra under layers to keep them warm.

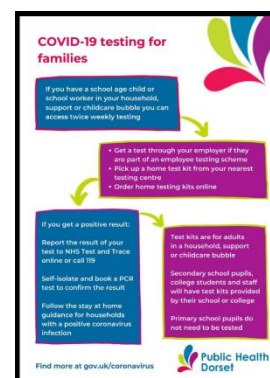
There are 4 key points that we would like to ask you to really help us with and these are all centred around drop off and pick up. Please could you:

- socially distance from other parents
- wear a face covering
- try to ensure only 1 parent/carer brings or collects the children
- not enter the school grounds – if you need to speak to someone then please use the buzzer at the front entrance



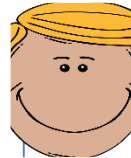
If you are participating in the community LFT testing you can collect the Lateral Flow Devices from Poole Leisure Centre between 1-7pm. Please, if your test is positive, can we remind you that your whole family will need to self-isolate immediately, arrange a PCR test and inform school of your positive result.

Thank you to you all for your continued support. I am sorry that I have not seen any of you in person but the feedback I have been given is that our school family is working together and that all the children are enthusiastic to come into school. A special thank you for the messages that you have sent in for staff. They have been very much appreciated.





I just wanted to say Thank you Mrs Watts for being such a great teacher through this home school period. You've responded to absolutely everything and marked every piece of work and given such encouraging and motivating feedback to keep us going. All you teachers are amazing and you're all such an important part in bringing light and togetherness to this strange time. Thank you so much.



Thank you to the teachers and the other parents who have all put in so much effort to make this lockdown bearable! You've done a tremendous job. : -)



Thank you . I agree with the above. You have both been amazing through challenging times. We really appreciate it .



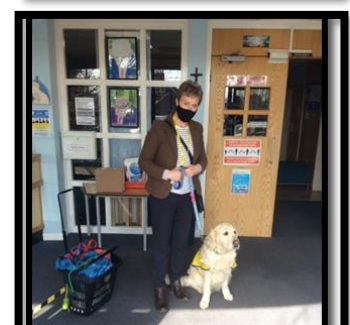
Dear Staff of St Mary's, I just wanted to thank each and everyone of you for everything you have done for the children through these really difficult times. We really appreciate all your hard work and dedication going above and beyond as always but especially over the last year. You have come into school to teach even though the government told everyone else to stay home in order to stay safe. I know myself questioned that on more than one. But the children came first and you delivered excellent teaching both in school and online . Thank you is not enough but we mean it. We wish you all the very best for next week and all the weeks ahead. A special mention to Mr Lakatos and Mrs Wrann who have both been incredible we are eternally grateful.

I just wanted to remind you of a few key points. The same times for the staggered starts and finish times will apply. I know you will all be trying your very best to ensure that your child arrives within their set time slot to ensure the safety of all the bubbles and I thank you for this. Our Risk assessment also states that we will remind all parents to go straight home after drop off and pick up. We have replenished the signs on the gates and the staff will hold up sign to let you know which year group can enter through the gate.

F2 and Years 3 and 6	8:35 – 8:45	15:00
Years 2 and 4	8:45 – 8:55	15:10
Years 1 and 5	8:55 – 9:05	15:20

Every 2 weeks during lockdown I have attended the BCP Headteacher Meetings. They have been very supportive with information with regards to COVID. Elaine Redding, the Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services regularly attends. At one meeting she said that the council had allocated a sum of money which could be spent to support the return of children to schools and that you had to bid for the money. I put together a bid for a 'Pet Therapy Dog' for 12 weeks. I was thrilled to hear that my bid was successful and Mya and her owner Jenny attended their first session in school on Monday. Mya's key priorities are:

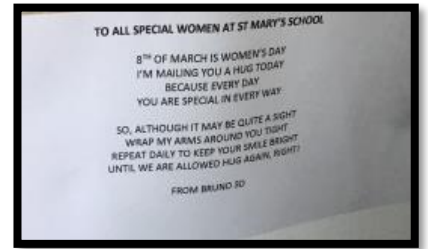
- Reading for all, to include a phonics recovery plan catch-up for pupils who need it, particularly in Years 1 to 4.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing (PSHE) to help pupils feel settled and supported and prepared for another lockdown





Monday was 'International Women's Day' and Bruno in Year 3 brought in this amazing 'hug' and poem for his teacher.

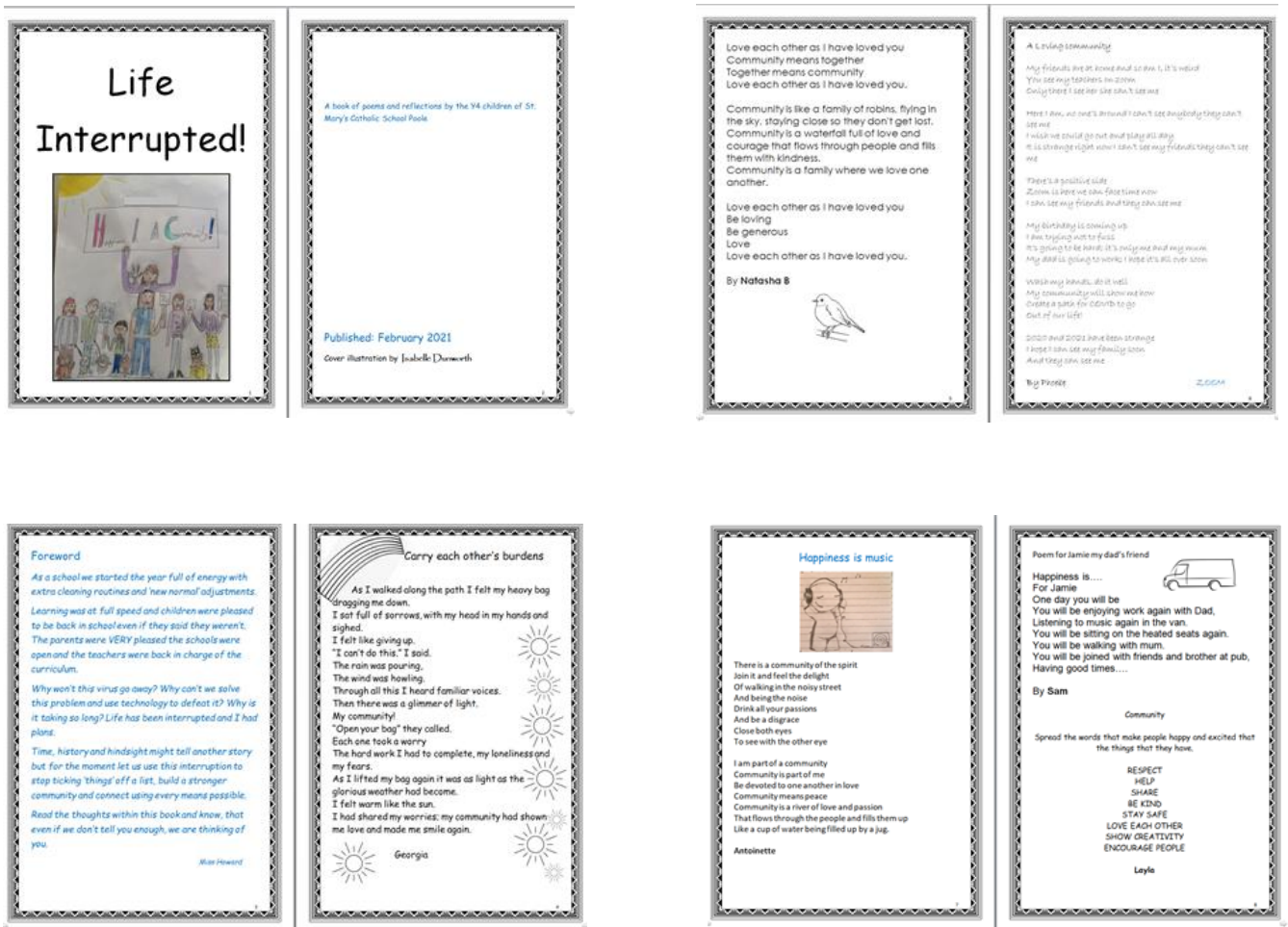
Thank you Bruno.



Our front entrance display has changed this week to 'Who needs your help today?'. It is encouraging us to think about our 'alms giving' during Lent and if we can support those not as fortunate as ourselves.

Thank you to those of you who participated in CAFOD's 'Walk for Water' campaign. It is very much appreciated.

Our year 4 children have written a book which has been printed and taken to our members of the parish family who have been stuck in their homes and not been able to see people for months. They were amazed at the quality of the work and delighted to know that the children are still thinking about them.



The answers to the 'guess the word' competition are attached to this email. Did you get many right? Thank you to all those who entered.



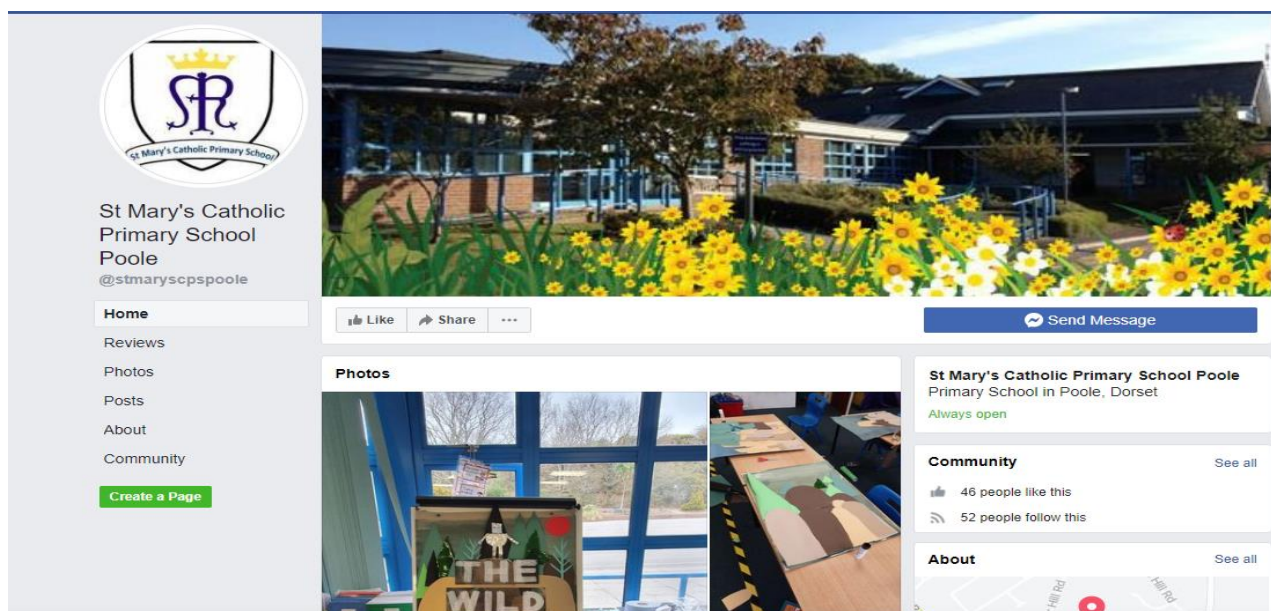
An advert was sent out last week as we have a vacancy for a Governor. So far we have had no enquiries. Please can I ask you to consider becoming a governor. If you would like to talk more about the role please let the school office know.

Our school is becoming part of Operation Encompass. This is a police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children and young people who experience Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass means that the police will share information about Domestic Abuse incidents with our school soon after they have been called to a domestic incident. A letter is attached with further information and there will shortly be information on our school website.



We have purchased a subscription with school cloud so that we can hold parent consultations safely within the strict COVID rules. Parent Consultations will be in the week of the 22nd March. You will receive information next week to enable you to log onto and book your slot.

Over the past few weeks we have been populating our new Facebook page. We look forward to more people following us over the next few weeks and hope that this will be another useful platform to support us in sharing our good news stories. A special thank you to all the families that voted for our school to try and win some ice-cream. Next time we might be the lucky winners!



I am pleased to share with you that there are lots more house points this week. Thank you to you all for contributing.



Red – 283

Blue - 318

Green - 258

Yellow – 164

Your prayers last week for a member of our school family were much appreciated and they are beginning to show signs of improvement.



This week could we remember our very own Reyes and his family. It is two years this week and we still all miss him very much.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need anything.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher