



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

22nd November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe how fast the term is flying by. As you walk around the school now you are guaranteed to hear the children singing songs for their Nativity or playing Christmas music ready for the concert in December. I am sure it is the same for you all at home in the evenings.



On Wednesday we welcomed Mr Antram from St. Edward's who came for a visit and to discuss how we can further work together in the future. Mrs Morgan the Year 7 Leader will also be coming over the next few weeks to meet with our Year 6 teachers and Miss Lindsay will be popping up to St. Edward's to see the children who moved there in Year 7. One of the exciting links that we have planned is that the Drama department are going to do some work with us to further enrich our curriculum.



This week the Local Governing Board met on Monday and discussed lots of school business but spent time thinking carefully about Devon Road and parking issues that have been raised and how best to keep all the children safe. You will receive a letter from the Board in response to issues raised.

On Tuesday I attended to the PTA AGM. We are very lucky to have such an active PTA, the committee work so hard to make sure there are events which provide fun activities for the children whilst at the same time raising money for the school. Just last Friday they held the Key Stage 1 Movie Night which was a great success. I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of all of you to thank them for the hard work in raising funds for our school. I also need to thank the staff who helped at the Movie Night last week as well. Many of the committee have agreed to stay on for another 2 years which is fantastic news but in order to succession plan we do need more volunteers to join the committee so that they can shadow the members and possibly take over in 2 years' time. Please consider joining the PTA we need your support. You can contact the PTA via the school office.



Over the next couple of weeks the PTA will be planning the 'Sparkle', our St Mary's version of a Christmas Fayre. If you can help run a stall or you can help in the setting up or clearing away. Please let the office know. Our Key Stage 1 Choir will be opening the Sparkle on Friday 6th December and so we have re-organised how this will begin. In order for the children to have the best audience possible we will ask the all those coming to the Sparkle enter at 3.30pm via the door at the far end of the school near the astro turf. You will then walk along the long corridor to the hall. As you walk along you will hear the



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

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children welcoming you into the hall with their beautiful singing. Once in the hall you will be able to watch the children and then afterwards we will announce the stalls open and the Sparkle will begin! I am sure that you will all be sending in lots of exciting donations next Friday on the non-uniform day.

On Thursday I had the opportunity to visit L'Arche in London to experience a community with people with learning disabilities in the city. L'Arche celebrates people with learning disabilities and builds circles of support around them. They go beyond supporting people's basic needs to attend to their emotional and spiritual lives, too. They focus on building relationships and cultivating a sense of belonging that makes us different from other service providers. This day made me think about my life, my family, my role in school and reinforced my belief that 'Every single person has their gifts'. It was a day that really made me think about my own faith and how this informs my leadership. If you ever have the opportunity to visit please do. If you have a spare 4 minutes please watch these videos.

<https://www.larche.org/en/as-i-am>



This week we have to congratulate Adam (FS2) and Natalia (Y3) who won shields at the Poole Cycle Speedway Club Racing.

Also well done to Katie (Y4) and Harriet (Y4) who both got medals for coming second in their gymnastics competition.



Also this week we received an inspection of Food Safety and Hygiene from the Environmental Health Department of BCP Council who looked at our Extended Day room, the school hall and servery during lunch time. I am very proud to say that we were awarded 5 stars. Thank you to all the staff who uphold the highest standards for our children.

We raised £128 through the bags to school donations. Thank you to you all for all your donations.



Finally, it is 'World Youth Day' on Sunday, and all the children are invited to come Mass on Sunday morning at St Mary's Church and sing 'I am the Earth' after Holy Communion. Children can come either in uniform or not. We look forward to seeing you at church.



Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher