



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

1st March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some of you will have noticed that Mrs Betts has been missing this week. I am pleased to share with you that she has been seconded as the 'Acting Headteacher' to St. Catherine's Catholic Primary in Bridport. I know she will lead the school well and we wish her every success in her new position.

Plymouth CAST have been working with the Local Authority and other Trusts in the area to find a suitable deputy for our school. I am pleased to report that Mr Simon Thomas will be seconded to us as the 'Acting Deputy' from Monday 18th March 2019. Mr Thomas has a wealth of school experience and was previously a senior leader at Oakdale Junior School. More recently he has been the Year 2 teacher at Court Hill Infants School. We look forward to welcoming him to St. Mary's Catholic Primary and I am sure you will all make him feel very welcome.

On Wednesday 6th March, Father John has invited us to the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Church at 9am. Please could we ask that you drop the children at the church that morning. You are all welcome to stay for Mass and the distribution of Ashes. We would really welcome your support in walking the children back to school so please stay behind after the Mass if you are able and join the children to walk back. Many thanks in advance.

This week we were fortunate to have Lynda Ford-Horne who visited us Tuesday 2 to help the children learn more about the Jewish religion. In Year 6 she talked about 'Shabbat', Year 5 was about 'Repentance', Year 4 about the 'Torah and Yom Kippur', Year 2 learnt about the 'Torah' and Year 3 discussed 'How Jews Pray'.



We are currently in the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight which will end next Friday. It is an opportunity to join the thousands of individuals, companies and schools across the UK who come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year we are focusing on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much. More details of the Fairtrade Café will be sent next week.



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

Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207

Website: www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk

E-mail: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk



Congratulations to Magdalena in our Foundation Stage, who earned her Level 2 'Learn to Swim' award this week. Magdalena was very proud of her certificate, badge and swimming hat.

Also well done to the Mini Vinnies who raised £123 from their cake sale before half term. They have decided to give this money to CAFOD, the Catholic charity which reaches out to people living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture. We have strong links with this much valued charity and would like to thank you for supporting the Mini Vinnies with this fund raiser.



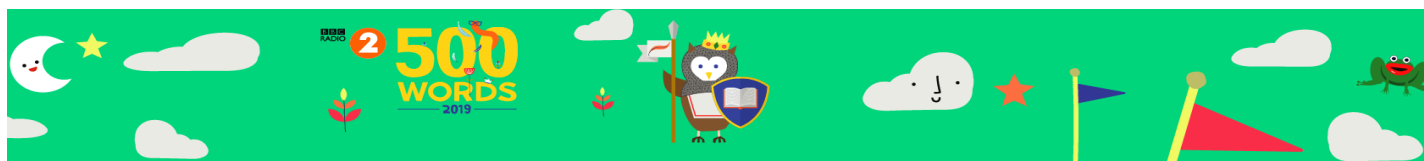
We are also pleased to share with you that Oli from Year 5 has been chosen as the referee's mascot for AFC Bournemouth on Saturday in their game against Manchester City. Good Luck, Oli, you will make a fabulous mascot.

The final reminder is that Radio 2's 500 words competition closes on Friday 7th March so please encourage your child to get writing. It's super simple. All entrants must write an original story, no more than 500 words in length, and submit it online. It can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, microwaves. The list is endless! Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling.

Please see the link below for further details:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/50pnqLfDywb9CFxiNvth5l0/about-500-words>



Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher