



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

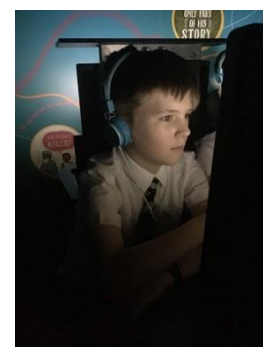
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

13th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas Sparkle last Friday was a great success and our Key Stage One Choir got us into the festive spirit with their amazing singing which opened the Fayre. You were all extremely generous and although we do not have an exact total we believe that it is over £1300. This is fantastic news, thank you.

Last week we met with the Year 7 Leader from St Edward's, Collette Morgan. We talked about transition arrangements and how they could offer curriculum support to our school. We were offered the opportunity for our Year 6 children to go to the GSUS bus. GSUS Live is housed on a purpose-built trailer which transforms into a large interactive learning space, featuring touch screen tablet computers. It is a popular and trustworthy RE resource created by professionals. The children in Year 6 had a great time and we thank St. Edward's for the experience.



The Key Stage One Nativities have been a great success this week. The children all sang their hearts out. Each year group had worked so hard to put on an excellent production. My special thanks goes to all the staff who helped to make the nativities possible.



Our newly reorganised library was being well used this week when our Year 6 children took the Year 1 children in there to listen to them read. It was great to see them all working together and concentrating so well.



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

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On Wednesday we served over 300 Christmas Dinners to the children. We could not have done this without the many parents, grandparents and friends of St. Mary's who came along to help.

The children ate well and the children in Key Stage one loved their super hero masks. Thank you to the PTA. The children in KS2 have saved their crackers to have on their Christmas party day.



On Thursday our 'Mini Vinnies' went to the St. Mary's SVP Tea and Chat at Church. They had a fantastic time talking, dancing and some even played their musical instruments. I think they have made some very special memories, especially of 'Snatch Bingo'.



Last night we ended the week with our School Christmas Concert. What talented children we have in school. The musical talents of our children are phenomenal. Thank you to Mrs Wilson and all the staff who supported this event.



Congratulations to Millie in Year Five on achieving her grade 4 in the Cello. Natalia in Year 3 and her brother Adam in FS2, and William in Year 3 who have all achieved badges and certificates for their swimming. In Year 2 we have Sophie and Evie who have done well in the Christmas Gymnastic competition. Very well done to them all.



Thank you to the 79 (20%) of parents who have completed the parent questionnaire based on the Catholic Life of the school this week. If you haven't yet managed to complete it please could you take a few minutes to answer the questions and send the form back to school. Your thoughts and opinions are very valuable to us. Thank you.



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Catholic Life Parent Questionnaire - November 2019

I wanted to say a special thank you to one of our parents who this week really showed an act of kindness. There was a lot of mud on the path on Pound Lane and people were slipping on it. So he came into school borrowed a shovel and scraped it all away. Thank you so much!

We have had reports that when it rains the puddles become very deep and dangerous. This morning Mr Aldworth took photos and sent them to 'BCP Council' if you do the same then hopefully they will come and sort them out soon.



<https://www.poole.gov.uk/streets-and-travel/report-a-street-issue/potholes-damaged-roads-or-footpaths/>



As we prepare for the third week of Advent we continue to think about getting ready for the coming of Jesus. The third candle is pink, to represent joy and happiness as this week's preparation is all about being joyful! In fact, the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday which means 'rejoice', or 'be joyful'.



We finish for Christmas at 1.30pm next Friday but we invite you to come into the hall once you have collected your child and join in with our 'Carols around the Tree'. It is always such a lovely family event and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher

