



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

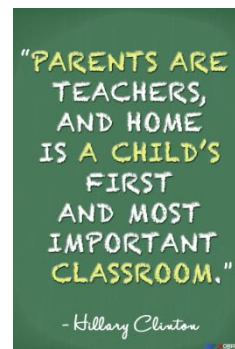
17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe I am writing my last letter of the academic year 2019-2020. It was most definitely not the year any of us expected. I have written 34 weekly updates and 15 of those have been during the pandemic when most children have not attended school. I wanted to thank you for your support over the past 15 weeks. I know that it has not been easy for you and I admire your strength and perseverance.

From the day your child enters into school we always remind ourselves that you are your child's first teacher. Never has there been a truer statement than now. So thank you to you all for the splendid work you have done over the past 4 months.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all the kind gifts that have been sent into school. All the staff have gone above and beyond this term and they deserve a restful holiday from school. I know that we all appreciate all the kind words in your cards and are grateful for your continued support. Thank you.



We thank you Lord, for this term.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to be the best we can be these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others.

To be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We thank you for all our children, staff, parents, governors and our school and church community that care for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Amen



I am still working through the many Risk Assessments and Action plan forms for Plymouth CAST and this will continue throughout the holidays but I am hoping that there will not be any change to the arrangements I shared with you last week.

Here is a reminder:

Drop off: 8.30-8.40am		Pick up: 2.55pm
Year 6 Entrance through the bottom gate, through car park, in through the Art room.	Year 3 Entrance through normal morning gate, walk in through the front entrance.	FS2 Entrance through the side gate and stand socially distanced in the playground.
Drop off: 8.45-8.55am		Pick up: 3.10pm
Year 4 Entrance through the bottom gate, through car park, to the outside doors of Year 4.	Year 2 Entrance through the normal morning gate, straight to Year 2 classrooms.	
Drop off: 9.00-9.10am		Pick up: 3.25pm
Year 5 Entrance through bottom gate, through car park and round the outside to Year 5.	Year 1 Entrance through the normal morning gate, straight to Year 1 classrooms.	

I need to ask that only one parent brings their child to school each day to reduce the number of adults and to aid social distancing. Please can you also make sure that your child arrives on time between the allotted slots as we cannot mix the 'bubbles'. We will trial it for the first couple of weeks and welcome any feedback from parents which suggests how we can improve the system. Then I will adapt our Risk Assessments and Action Plans as appropriate.

Please note that in the first term there will be no after school activity clubs as we cannot mix 'Bubbles'.

The arrangement and booking system has opened for our Before School and After School Clubs. It will be held in the hall and there will be restrictions on timings to begin with. Hopefully, like with the drop off and pick up times, we will be able to adapt this as we go along. Numbers are restricted so it is even more necessary for you to book in advance.

Breakfast Club- cars cannot be driven in to school to collect children.

Session 1 – From 7.30-7.40am

Drop off – main gate for Breakfast club.

Session 2 - From 8.00-8.10am

Drop off – main gate for Breakfast club.

After School Club – cars cannot be driven in to school to collect children.

Session 1 – From the end of school.

Pick up - 4.25-4.35pm from the main gate

Session 2 – From the end of school.

Pick up - 5.25- 5.35pm from the main gate

As we are using the hall for Before School and After School Clubs we will not be able to provide 'Hot School Meals'. However, Poole Grammar School have come up with a wonderful cold alternative for the children for the first half of the Autumn term which will be served to them in their classrooms. All children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will have access to this lunch as part of the 'Universal Free School Meal Offer'. Children in Key Stage 2 who are eligible for Free School Meals will also have a lunch provided which they will eat with their 'Bubble' in the classroom. The menu has been emailed to all parents and carers and is on the website. If you would like to order a lunch for your child, you can now book one for September.

A special thank you to all the families who have sent in good quality second hand uniform. We have been sharing this out to those who have asked for it. Please if you require anything specific let the office know and we will hopefully be able to help.

We have received notification of the Summer Reading Challenge. This would be a great way to support your child with their reading over the summer. The Summer Reading Challenge is back with Silly Squad. It's all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh! The Silly Squad is a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/silly-squad-coming-soon>



The Virtual Bake Off had lots of entries and they were all very delicious. We have sent out a poster with all the amazing entries on and well done to them all. There is a little competition at the end to see if you can guess which cake was made by which member of staff. Please send your answers into the office, thank you.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



The staff entries were: Mrs Reyes, Miss Legg, Mrs Jones, Mrs Wilson, Miss Howard, Mrs Wright, Miss Dilke - but who made which one?

We have made a video of the 'Bubbles' and all they have been doing over the past few weeks. If you would like to watch the video please follow this link:

<https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/home>

Thank you for your patience and your continued support. If you need any help, support or advice please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. The school office email will be checked once a week over the holidays so be assured your queries will be answered.

I wanted to wish you all a restful holiday and I cannot wait to see you all in September. Please take care and stay safe and I pray that we will all be together again in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Armstrong". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Helen" and last name "Armstrong" clearly distinguishable.

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher