



# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth*

7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children from Foundation Stage and Key Stage One took part in their Nativities this week and they were all absolutely brilliant! My special thanks go to the teachers and all the staff who worked so hard to produce such fine shows. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you over a cup of tea and a mince pie at the end. The Year Two children launched the week with their sophisticated performance of "The Midwife Crisis". This was followed by Year One's amazing performance "The Little Nativity" and our Foundation Stage children rounded off the week with a wonderful performance of "It's a Baby!" Thank you to the PTA who provided lovely hampers for the raffle.

Next week we have over 90 children and staff, and also Father John, performing in the Christmas concert at St. Mary's Church on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. This will also be followed by refreshments in the hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this event even if you do not have a child participating. It is always a great musical spectacular.

The Sparkle last week raised over £1200 before expenses, which I'm sure you'll agree, is great news. Thank you to all of the PTA and everyone who helped to run such a successful event.



Please let the office know if you think you could give a little time - just one day a week - to collect and walk the children into school in the mornings from either of two stops: the top of Pound Lane and the bottom of Devon Road.

We cannot start it without your support and the more volunteers we can get, the better.

Last night, I went to Leeson House to visit the Year 5 children who are on their residential. They were all so happy and having a great time. They were enjoying a yummy Christmas meal and entertained me with all the jokes in the crackers. After dinner, they wanted to show me their rooms,



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

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which all passed my inspection and I told them I wished my girls kept their rooms so neat and tidy! Despite the weather, they have had a super time and I know they will all be keen to share their tales when they get home.



This week, I wanted to share the 'The Values' for the 'The vision of Plymouth CAST'. In the New Year we will be looking for ways to share these values with the children. At the Phase Leader meeting on Tuesday we discussed how well they fit into the four values of St. Mary's, which are Love, Creativity, Spirituality and Respect and will be working with the staff and children to incorporate these values in the curriculum itself, so that we offer an education to our children 'in the light of the Gospel'.

### CAST Values

The values which inspire our work and inform the ethos and decision-making in our schools are the values of the Gospel, based on the Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 5: 1-11). These values are presented to the school community at assemblies and liturgies and explored throughout the working week in the classroom. When we come to celebrate achievement in the school, we recognize first and foremost those who have witnessed to Gospel values, as well as recognising excellence in other areas.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*

**Gospel value: Humility**, seeing life as a gift

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"*

**Gospel value: Compassion**, empathy

*"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"*

**Gospel value: Kindness**, gentleness

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"*

**Gospel value: Justice**, working for a fairer world

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"*

**Gospel value: Forgiveness**, reconciliation

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*

**Gospel value: Integrity**, do what you say

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"*

**Gospel value: Peace**, committed to peacemaking, non-violence

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*

**Gospel value: Courage**, standing up for truth

Yours faithfully,

*Helen Armstrong*

Helen Armstrong  
Headteacher