



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

29th November 2019

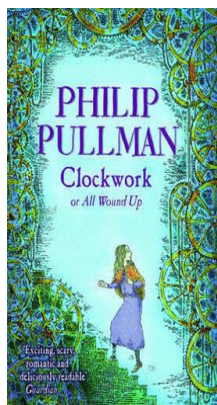
Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Sunday many children wore their school uniform and some their Sunday bests to church for World Youth Sunday and they sang 'I am the earth'. The feedback I have had from parishioners, parents and Governors is amazing. I was sorry not to be there but I was away for the weekend celebrating my daughters 18th and 21st!

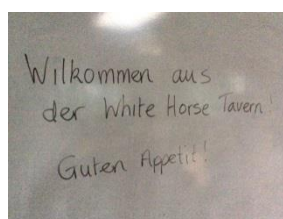
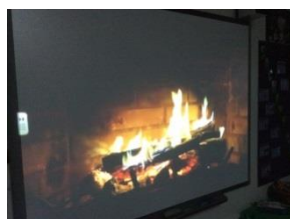
One of the parishioners said to me: **"I just needed to let you & the whole school know that the congregation at St.Mary's 9.30 Mass were so moved & impressed with the children's singing of I Am The Earth this morning. They filled the altar steps, nearly all in uniform & received a great round of spontaneous applause at the end-you would have been very proud of them as I was!"**



The Year 6 children have begun a new novel. Clockwork by Philip Pullman.



I found myself walking into "The White Horse Tavern" on Monday afternoon. A special thank you Mrs McNamara a past parent and member of staff who arrived with lots of props and resources to provide the children with a real life experience of Germany.



Mr Lakatos has introduced the children to a new display following up after 'Anti-Bullying Week'. "Change starts with us" is the title. Small changes make a big difference. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together. Change starts here. Change starts now. Change starts with us.



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

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Today the children wore their own clothes to school in return for a gift for the 'Sparkle'. Don't forget the PTA need your help. 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 One 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 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.



Christmas Sparkle Fayre!

**Tombola, Crafts, Stalls, Games, Refreshments
& more! Family & friends most welcome!**

Thank you for so many fabulous donations and to the PTA for sorting them – here is just a selection of them. We hope you will come along and try to win some treats!



This week we sent cheques to the following charities, Wessex Heartbeat - £136.29, CAFOD - £532.17 and Children in Need - £436.43. That means that we have raised £1,104.89 for charity. Thank you to you all for your generous support.



Congratulations to Matteo in Year One for passing his singing exam with "The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music".

Next week you will all be receiving a parent questionnaire based on the Catholic Life of the school. 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.



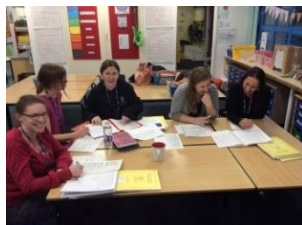
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Catholic Life Parent Questionnaire - November 2019

The East Dorset Cluster have met twice this week. On Monday all the teachers from the 4 schools met to moderate writing and then on Thursday we had some Maths CPD for Maths Leads, Year 2 and Year 6 teachers. Our special thanks go to Mr Lobo and Miss Waters from St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Southampton for providing such high quality CPD.



Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent. In preparation for this the Mini Vinnies led our first Advent Liturgy today. They shared with us that since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent Wreath is used to symbolise God the Father and eternal life.

Our wreath holds five candles, four of which are lit over the four weeks of Advent and the white one which is lit on Christmas Day. There are three violet candles and one rose candle and a white candle in the centre. The lighting of the Advent candles represents the promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. The first Sunday of Advent symbolises Hope with the Prophet's Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. Today we lit the first candle. Advent is no longer considered a Penitential season, rather a time of joyful expectation.

I hope you all experience much joy during this Advent.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher