



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The staff and visitors have all been brilliant this week at wearing a face covering whilst outside the classroom in communal areas/corridors etc in the same way that they would in a shop or on public transport. Thank you for your support with this and to all the Foundation Parents who have to wear the face covering to enter the site to drop and pick up their child, it is much appreciated. Thank you for socially distancing outside of the gates it is much appreciated. I attended a BCP Zoom this week and there are 20 schools that have been affected by positive cases but they continued to state that it is all being held within bubbles and they asked us to keep encouraging families to support all the guidelines which I can confidently say you are. Thank you.



On Monday evening we held our first Governor meeting of the year via Zoom. We were pleased to welcome Mr Adrian Nightingale who has agreed to join us as a Foundation Governor. There were also a couple of other changes. Mrs Ann Harris stepped down from being our Chair after supporting us for 4 years. We are very grateful for all she has done to support our work at St. Mary's and are pleased that she agreed to stay on the Board as the Vice-Chair of Governors. Our new Chair of Governors is Mrs Lucy Culkin. Lucy is a massive support to our school and I look forward to working closely with her in her new role. All our governors are very proactive and are eager to get started on the schedule of accountability for the forth coming year. Thank you to them all.



It is extremely important to us that we ensure the safety of all our children in school. As the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' at St. Mary's I am eternally grateful for the support I receive from my 'Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs)', Mrs Hazell, Mrs Wright and Mr Lakatos. I am pleased to say that after completing his training Mr Thomas is also joining our team as a DDSL. I thank them all for their continued support.

We have also updated our 'Behaviour Policy' which takes consideration of being in the middle of a pandemic. You can find the updated policy here <https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/policies/68618>

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

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As you all know our vision is “Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ”. I am constantly witnessing this in school at the moment. The teachers, the children and all the staff working together to inspire each other to learn in everything they are doing. The children are responding particularly well to IXL and I received a certificate saying that as a school we had completed over 120,000 questions. This week Hannah sent in her own certificate to share with you all. Well done Hannah!

Also 77% of our children in Year 1-6 have registered on the ‘Google Classroom’. This is great news and we have been set the challenge by the ‘Academy Trust’ to get it to 100% by next week. Please can those children that have not logged in, do so over the weekend thank you. On Google classroom you will find information about the weekly homework and also it is where you will find the work to be completed if your child needs to self-isolate. More and more information is being added each week.

Next week we will be celebrating ‘Harvest’ in school with a whole school liturgy on Friday. Now more than ever we need to be thinking, praying and helping others. Therefore we are asking all children to bring in an item of food which we will take to the Poole Food Bank.



They are always appreciative of our donations. They are currently asking for cereals, pasta, pasta sauces, rice, tinned soups and stews, tinned meat and fish, tinned beans and vegetables, olive oils and sprays, condiments and spices, and fruit juice. We will place boxes outside of the 3 gates so that the donations can be placed in there in the morning on your way to school.



Last week we asked that all children bring a coat to school every day. Unfortunately this week many children have been caught out in the rain without a coat. Please can I ask that you send your child with a coat everyday even if it is sunny. We will be going outside at playtime as often as is possible. Also, as part of our risk assessment, we have to have plenty of ventilation in the rooms. This means that there are lots of windows open. As we progress further into Autumn and Winter your child may need to wear an extra under layer etc.



The children have been enjoying earning their house points and as we thought it would be good to share with the weekly tally for each group. It is my pleasure to share with you that this week “Red” had the most points with 223. Closely followed by Blue with 209, Yellow with 207 and Green with 199. Well done to all the children who gained a house point this week!

Congratulations to our new Y6 prefects! There were lots of excellent applications and it was a very difficult decision to make. After much deliberation, it was decided that the following children would carry out this role fantastically: Deon, Kally, Alicia, Anastasia, Romeo, Grace, Amelia, Chelzin, Deona, Ciara, Joel, Adam, Fintan and Mareena. Congratulations! We can't wait to see what a great job you do!



Thank you once again for all your support this week.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher