

Newsletter— 11th October 2017

Message from CEO

I trust that the letters I have been sending since we received our Financial Notice to Improve have made it clear just how serious our position is. In addition Sandy and I were 'summonsed' to a meeting with Sir David Carter and Christine Quinn our new Regional Schools Commissioner at the Department for Education on Tuesday. A second meeting about school improvement was also arranged so that Brian Hooper who is now the Education Specialist with special responsibility for CAST schools could describe how he saw his role developing. In the event Louise Adams and Brian were able to join the meeting with Sir David which was helpful. Sir David started by explaining that he had asked Christine to take responsibility for us because Lisa Mannall, having worked for CAST, could be seen as having a conflict of interest. He then went on to make it very clear that we needed to make significant improvements within the next twelve months. I'm therefore very grateful to all of you (Headteachers & Chair of Governors) who have made such an effort to come to one or other of the meetings being held next week, where we shall have the opportunity to describe in more detail our next steps.

At a time when things are so hard it is lovely also to be able to report some good news - **St Mary's in Dorchester** has received a letter from Dorset Education Advisory Service who classified the school as Category 1 saying "Your school continues to perform consistently well and you deliver a high standard of education to your pupils." Well done to all concerned.

We must also always remember our Catholic ethos and I thought that the following reading from yesterday's morning prayer of the Church was particularly appropriate –

1Peter 4: 10 -11

Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; if you are a helper, help as though every action was done at God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen

Times are hard but as stewards of God's graces and by working together we shall succeed.



News from our Schools



The Cathedral School of St Mary, Plymouth

On Tuesday 3rd October, Class 5 pupils from The Cathedral School of St Mary attended a digital film-making workshop, aimed at documenting the **14-18-Now 'Poppies Wave'** installation on Plymouth Hoe. The artwork, which features thousands of ceramic poppies surrounding the Naval War Memorial, is currently touring the UK, marking the centenary of the First World War.

Children learned to plan a news report, and then, using industry-standard equipment, filmed their reports from Plymouth Hoe.



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Plymouth

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is making reading its number one priority this year - so much so that every class is named after an author. So you can imagine how excited Simon James class was when the man himself visited us this week! He spent the day talking to classes and working with the children. He was such an inspiration, especially for our boys.

We were also very fortunate to have Brian Pollard in last week, sharing his wonderful artistic style with our younger children. The art work created showed we have some budding painters that has given a clear message that all our talents are to be nurtured and promoted.



News from our Schools



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, Exeter

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School held a number of events in September to raise money for 3 cancer charities.

They held a Macmillan Coffee morning which was attended by parents and friends of the school and were pleased to raise over £130 from donations for cakes provided by staff and parents.

The whole school then took part in a Race for Life Event. We were blessed with a warm, sunny morning and all children, from Nursery to Yr 6 ran up to 4k. They were very excited to run the route together around the school grounds, supported by many parents cheering them on. They all received a Race for Life medal and a cake once they had finished their race. We were delighted that our local Councillor came to support the event and hand out the medals alongside Fr Jonathan Stewart from Blessed Sacrament Church. From donations and sponsorship received to date we have raised over £2,000 which will be divided between Cancer Research UK, Clic Sargent and Macmillan. It was such a



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News from our Schools



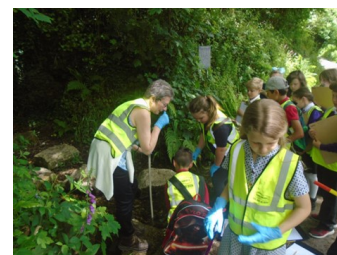
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bodmin have been working with the TLAT group of schools to support more able disadvantaged pupils. Cathy Bresliin, year 4 teacher, took part in the project and her findings are summaries below:

Research Question: Does the implementation of cultural experiences through nurture sessions in key stage 2 have a positive impact on engagement and progress of more able disadvantaged pupils?



The problem that we needed to overcome was a lack of engagement and motivation within more able disadvantaged pupils during lessons and in their work. There were many barriers to learning which included behaviour, negative attitudes to school, low self-esteem, a lack of confidence in their abilities, lack of family engagement with learning and low aspirations.

We came up with a two-point strategy: 1) Increase engagement of pupils by broadening their Cultural Capitals through offsite visits and 2) Participate in collaborative learning with children who have different experiences than themselves.



We began with a 'Get to know you' session in the first week, with St Mary's going to Robartes. The children wanted to find out about Holy Wells in Bodmin. They planned each fortnightly trip, thinking about what they wanted to find out and linking their learning to many areas of the curriculum – history, maths, literacy, science and geography, with the children using the Holy Wells Guide, which was written by Bodmin Town Council, as a research tool.

We carried out surveys before the intervention about how the children felt about their learning experiences and this survey will be repeated at the end of the process. We are hoping that the children will not only make progress in their writing but that their attendance will increase as well as their attitude to learning and school.

The children were asked to present their findings about the Holy Well in a report that will be shared with the schools, parents and community, including Bodmin Town Council.

The children visited four of the Holy Wells around the Bodmin area

They measured the depth of the water and the flow of the water. They carried out observational drawings to show the different structure of each well. They used the Internet to research the history of each well including how and why they got their name.



Moving on with this project, the imminent future: Visiting Bodmin Town Museum to find out further information about the Holy Wells, Visit from the author of the Holy Wells trail and producing an information booklet to share with whole school, parents and community.

Further into the Future: Working in partnership with the National Trust to visit sites around Devon and Cornwall with the opportunity to participate in workshops to increase knowledge together with the opportunity to have a return pass so that children can visit again with their family.

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News and Events



St Boniface College, Plymouth will be hosting the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir on Wednesday 22nd November at 6.45pm, Entry is free and all are welcome.

The Pearl of Africa Choir are a choir from Uganda who are taking part in a UK tour so that they can support their project. It is their aim to perform in order to fund raise to help both themselves and others gain an education and basic provisions. They will be running a day of workshops for 60 students as well as hosting the evening performance. For more information on the project visit website: <http://www.mollyandpaul.org/choir.html>

Policies

Prior to the Summer break, the CAST Board approved four main Policies which have been through the full consultation process. These Policies are:-

Appraisal Capability Disciplinary Grievance

On 14th September, the Board also approved Policies on:-

Social Media Flexible Working Alcohol and Substance Misuse

Following MAT Notice 1714 these seven Plymouth CAST Policies are ready for immediate adoption across all schools.

Date of Next Newsletter – 1st November 2017

Please remember to email in items for inclusion in the newsletter so that we can share the Good News stories across the Trust. Articles should be emailed to Helen Moram at helen.moram@plymouthcast.org.uk

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