

Newsletter— Wednesday 7th February 2018

Message from CEO

Dear Colleagues

It is with great pleasure that I can start my second message with good news from both of our secondary schools in Plymouth. St Boniface College, have recently received an Ofsted monitoring visit which stated that “the school is making rapid improvements” and that the new Headteacher has “given a much-needed sense of direction and energy to the school’s work”. Notre Dame was visited by the RSC Education Advisor who felt that good progress was being made. To all staff involved with these schools many thanks for all your hard work and I am sure you will meet the coming challenges in the same manner.

Head teachers will have received the first of my updates from the Board which I hope will help with communication across the Trust. If you have a question for the Board please use asktheboard@plymouthcast.org.uk

The Heads & Deputies Conference taking place on 22nd and 23rd February will enable stronger networks to be formed within the Trust and I look forward to seeing you all there. I am looking forward to hearing from our guest speakers Sister Mary Jo Martin and Nick Capstick. Raymond Friel will also be addressing the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work this term and wish you all a relaxing half-term.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Cook'.

Dr Karen Cook

News from our Schools



Priory Catholic Primary School, Torquay

Last week Classes 2 and 5 had a visit from Torquay Fire Station who came to give a talk on fire safety. Some of the children even had the opportunity to dress up.



Victorian Learning Programme at Powderham Castle

On Thursday, Classes 1 & 2 travelled by coach to Exeter to spend the day at Powderham Castle to take part in Powderham's 'Victorian Learning Programme'.

On arrival we were met by a costumed member of staff who gave a short welcome talk about what the day entailed.

In the Kitchen with Cook: Here we learnt about farming, seasons, deliveries, raw ingredients and menus. There was a cookery demonstration; griddle cakes were made for everyone, using Victorian kitchen implements and they were so delicious, Miss Whitehouse got the recipe! We were encouraged to think about the ingredients and compare kitchen utensils. We learnt about working conditions then and compared them to how it is now.

Housekeeper's helpers: We accompanied the Housekeeper on her daily inspection of the castle; carpet beating, sweeping and dusting along the way. The Housekeeper showed them her life in serving Lord of the Manor as she went about her rounds. She used some of the portraits to discuss clothes and highlight Victorian features in the different rooms and talked about them e.g. gas lighting. Next was boot polishing and floor cleaning in the Servants Hall!



During lunchtime the children had the opportunity to make their way through a Victorian toy box and were able to compare toys from the past. We were all worn out on the way home!



News and Events



Future Events

RE Leaders Conference. Friday 2nd March 2018 at the Sidmouth Harbour Hotel.

Booking deadline 6pm Thursday 15 February 2018.

For all RE Leaders, Leaders of RE and Chaplains of both Plymouth CAST and Diocesan Schools. Live booking link available via website calendar.

Governor Briefings (Refreshments Provided)

4.30pm to 5.15pm Introduction for new Governors

5.30pm to 7.30pm Established Governors

Monday 12th March : St Pauls Catholic Primary, Plymouth

Tuesday 13th March : St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, Exeter

Wednesday 14th March : St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Dorchester

Booking deadline midday Monday 6th March 2018.

GDPR Conference. Tuesday 13th March 2018 at Exeter Racecourse.

Booking deadline midday 05.02.2018.

This is important training to address the GDPR which comes into force on 25 May 2018. This governs how we obtain, process and store personal information on behalf of pupils, parents and suppliers. Attendance is required by each School Nominated Data Protection Controller. This is also relevant to the Administrator/School Business Manager if not the DPC.

Specialist Training for Headteachers of "Ofsted Rated RI Schools" (Tuesday 8th May 2018) and "Ofsted Rated Good Schools" (Wednesday 9th May 2018). Both days are to be held at St Boniface House. Booking deadline midday 12.05.2018. 9.30am to 3.30pm Lunch provided.

It is very important that Head Teachers attend this relevant training. Please book early.

Please book your place via the Website calendar <http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web/calendar>

If you have any queries regarding any of the above events, please contact Debbie Beech on events@plymouthcast.org.uk or telephone 01364 645401

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Trust and Central Team Staffing News

At a recent Board meeting it was decided that the title of Head of School Improvement did not truly reflect the diversity of the role and therefore the post would be renamed to Director of Education.

Following interviews on 30th January 2018

Matthew Barnes has been formally offered and accepted the post of Deputy Director of Education and will join the team shortly.

Kim Wathen has been formally offered and accepted the post of Safeguarding Lead based at St Boniface House and will be joining us from Our Lady & St Patrick's Teignmouth.

Date of Next Newsletter – Wednesday 21st February 2018

Please remember to email items for inclusion in the newsletter so that we can share the Good News stories across the Trust.

Articles for inclusion should be emailed to Helen Moram at helen.moram@plymouthcast.org.uk