



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

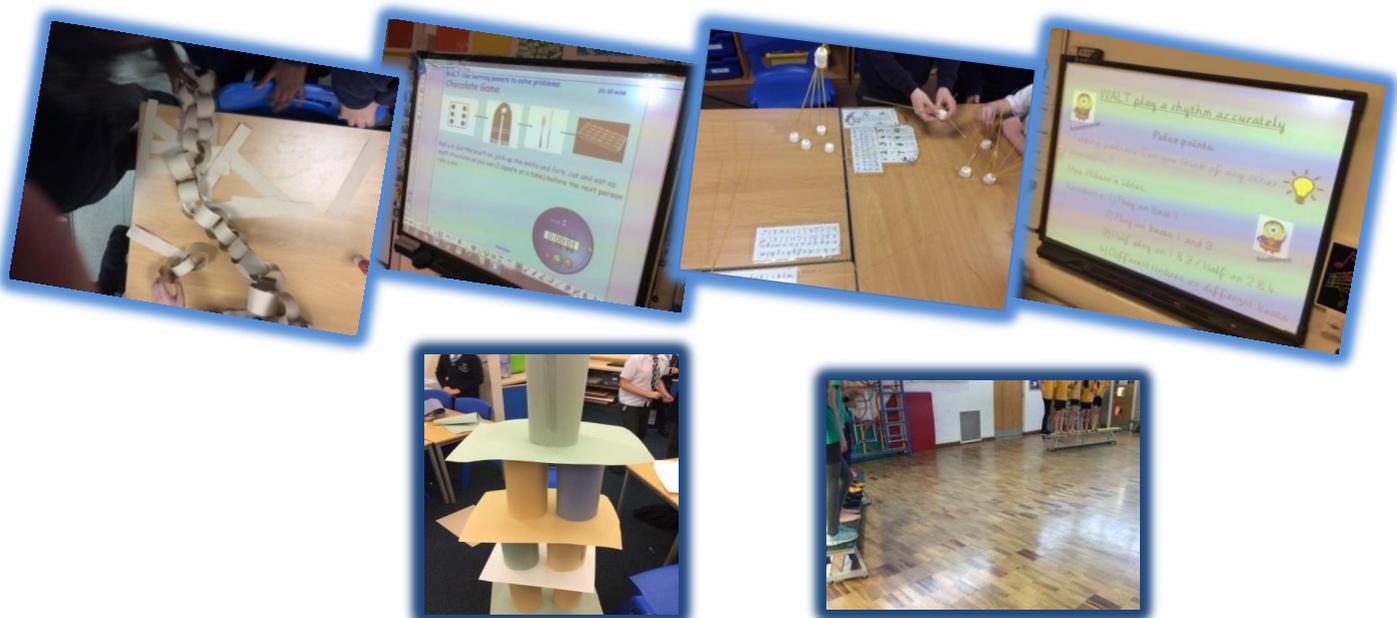
18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday the 'Safer Schools Community Team' came in to talk to the children in Year 6 about online safety and friends. On Tuesday 5th February, we will be taking part in 'Safer Internet Day'. The aim is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. The theme of the day will be "Together for a Better Internet" – empowering young people to take control of their digital lives.

We have also been trialling a different way of providing CPD for our teachers in school. This week, Mrs Wrann agreed to be videoed teaching reading to her class. This video will be shared with the teachers at our staff meeting next Monday and we look forward to really thinking about how we further develop the teaching of reading skills across the school. We are also focussing on developing the children's vocabulary bank in school. I wonder how you are all getting on with the 'word of the week', in the video some of the children in Year 6 were really challenging themselves with their vocabulary choices.

On Wednesday we launched our work on the 'Building Learning Power (BLP)' is about helping our children to become better learners. Our current curriculum is both very challenging and knowledge-based. Therefore, BLP allows us to give children the skills and attitudes to tackle and transfer this knowledge and prepares them better for an uncertain future. By creating a climate that fosters good learning habits, we will enable them to face challenges, difficulties and new situations in a calm, confident and creative way – not only in school, but way beyond into the real world of everyday life and for future employment. Professor Guy Claxton's (the founder of BLP) research has shown that those who are confident of their own learning ability learn faster and learn more efficiently – whether this be learning to read or riding a bike! Here are some of the photos taken from our afternoon.



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

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We are planning to hold a parent session which you will all be invited to come along to. The date will follow soon.

Another date for the diary is 'Open Book' after school on Tuesday 5th February after school 3.30-4.30pm. We know that some of you can't make that time so Mrs Betts and I will be offering a session on the Monday evening 6pm-7pm, a booking form will follow.

Congratulations to Alicia on her recent achievement on the trampoline. She did the unaided front somersault and improved her overall technique. As a result, she was awarded the Star of the Week certificate.

I think I spoke too soon last week about everyone being back up to full strength this week as we seem to be continually plagued with staff illness. I am hoping that this bout of cold weather will kill off all the germs and both the children and staff will return to full strength.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher

