
PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 8TH February 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

In this newsletter, providing a regular update on developments across CAST, the focus this week will be on:

1. Safeguarding
2. CAST Social Media
3. Schools' Achievements
4. Update on OFSTED Inspections
5. Section 48 Inspections
6. Date of next Newsletter –22nd February 2017

1. Safeguarding – Thank you to everyone for all your hard work. The following quotes from recently published OFSTED reports on our schools are hugely encouraging.

You ensure that pupils are safe and secure in the school at all times and have raised expectations with regard to safeguarding practices and supported staff in having a better understanding of how to assess risks consistently. This has created a strong culture of safety. All safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose, and child protection records are detailed and of high quality. The safeguarding policy is up to date and very comprehensive. The most recent Department for Education guidelines are on the website, which has all the required information about safeguarding. Staff have been suitably trained in the most recent changes to safeguarding procedures. Governors have noted an improvement in the support from Plymouth CAST, the multi-academy trust of which St Mary's is part, in the past two months, and this has improved practices for safeguarding.

Multi-academy trust representatives have recently undertaken an audit of safeguarding records. As a result, leaders are ensuring that the records they hold are accurate and complete. Checks are in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Leaders are working with representatives from the multi-academy trust, of which the school is a part, to ensure that safeguarding checks are sufficiently robust and meet current, more rigorous expectations.

2. CAST Website and Social Media Accounts

We are reviewing our internal communications to improve them. The main CAST Website will be relaunched during the next half of term. We are working hard behind the scenes to shortlist a suitable supplier and will bring more news soon. In preparation for that the following social accounts have been created. It would be very helpful if our schools could 'like' and 'follow' them and we will repay the compliment! It will take a little while for site content to be established. All submissions gratefully received.

Twitter: @PlymouthCAST
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/plymouth-cast>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PlymCAST>

3. Schools Achievements

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast are very proud to have received a letter from Rebecca Clark, the Regional Schools' Commissioner for the South West, to congratulate staff and pupils for being one of the region's highest performing schools. This was a wonderful celebration of all of the hard work that takes place at St Mary's and reinforces the good OFSTED grading, awarded following the recent inspection and acknowledged by Devon Local Authority, who also wrote to congratulate the school.

Only a few weeks later, the pupils were also presented with an award by the Campaign to Protect Rural England for an 'award winning outdoor area', for innovative use of outdoor areas at the school. The children are already excited about the next phase of improvements to the woodland area and are busy planning the work that needs to take place.

Many Congratulations to **Holy Cross and The Cathedral School of St Mary** who received letters from Nick Gibb the Minister of State for School Standards congratulating them on their extremely high standards of phonics screening for 2016.

Well Done Everybody!

Please keep the good news stories coming; we have so much to be proud of.

4. OFSTED Inspections March 2016 to 6th February 2017

East

St Mary's Marnhull	Good
St Catherine's Bridport	Awaiting publication
St Mary's Dorchester	Awaiting publication

Central

Our Lady's Barnstaple	Requires Improvement
Our Lady & St Patrick's Teignmouth	Awaiting publication

West

St Mary's Bodmin	Requires Improvement
St Peter's Plymouth	Good
Cathedral Plymouth	Good
Notre Dame Plymouth	Awaiting publication

5. Section 48 Inspections

In the midst of all the challenges CAST is facing at present the Board agreed that it was very important not to lose sight of the Catholic aspects of our work and so Sister Mary Jo Martin RSHM is reviewing this aspect of our work. The results of this should give us even more to celebrate.

6. Date of next Newsletter

We will be issuing our next newsletter after Half Term on the 22nd February.

All that remains is to wish you a happy and healthy half term break with your families and loved ones and thank you again for all your hard work.



Marcus Taylor
Chief Operating Officer
for and on behalf of the
Senior Management Team

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