

St Mary's RC Primary School

'Growing, loving and learning in the arms of Mary'

*Meadowside
Sunderland
SR2 7QN
Telephone 0191 5228787
Headteacher Mr M. Clephane*



Dear St. Mary's family,

16/06/2020

I thought I would share a really nice thing that happened last Friday. It kind of got lost amidst all the not so nice things. I received a gift, wrapped in hand painted wrapping paper along with a card from a girl who is in Year 2 here at St. Mary's; the card reads *'Not all super heroes wear capes'* then on the inside, *'Thanks for all you do.'*

The gift was her own copy of *'The Boy, the Mole the Fox and the Horse'*. For those who haven't read it, it is a beautifully illustrated tale about friends who share their weaknesses and realise, that despite them, they are good enough as they are, and that love is all that matters.

My daughter Florence has the book and I had read it before with her and never given it another thought. But why had this young girl gone out of her way to give the book to her Headteacher? On reading it again in our new and strange context it was obvious. The journey we have all been on to do the best for our community and children has been unprecedented and incredibly challenging. Something in this story made this girl (in her wisdom) realise that we all need each other no matter what role we play; pupil being home schooled and missing her friends or Headteacher tasked with seeing us through uncharted territory.

I would like to say a massive thank you to that kind St. Mary's girl but also I would like to thank you all for what you have done and continue to do to support the children at this difficult time. I would like to thank you personally for the kindness, support and generosity of spirit you have given me; it has meant the world. We are so lucky to be in a place where we look after each other, however, we must also take time to look after ourselves.

In the book the boy and the mole are looking at their reflection in the river and the boy says:

"Isn't it odd? We can only see our outsides, but nearly everything happens on the inside."

We must always remember that there is so much more going on inside; that includes the children, the parents, the staff, the governors and the clergy who make up this wonderful community.

When we are back fully in September there will be a great challenge not only to get children up to speed and back to age related expectations but also to support their reintroduction to formal schooling. Their happiness and safety will be our primary concern during this process.

The Governing Body of St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School and the Diocese are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations to safeguard them and we are committed to respond in accordance with Local Safeguarding Board procedures E-Mail: info@smrc.school
Website: www.smrc.school



This little book with its childlike wisdom has a lot to say to us right now and there is the idea that it may be used as part of our whole school curriculum in September.

We all know that the challenges will continue for some time yet and to quote the book again:

"We don't know about tomorrow," said the horse," all we need to know that we love each other."

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Clephane', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Clephane, Headteacher