

St Mary's News



Wednesday 19th December 2018

Anti-Bullying Week

The school council reviewed our children's Anti-Bullying Policy, ready for Anti-Bullying Week during the week commencing 12th November. We had a special assembly where we thought about what 'bullying' was, how to recognise it and help people who were affected by it. Fernworthy and Burrator also had a poster competition which Renais and Hannah won.

Our Anti-Bullying Policy is part of the school's Behaviour Policy which can be found on our school website:

<http://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/parents/policies/>



Newspaper Team

This year the school newspaper doesn't have just one editor but a whole editing team! Adele, Macie-Leigh, Natalie and Poppy, all pupils from Burrator Class, will be working hard to ensure that there is a school newspaper each term. In this edition, the team have written articles about some of the events that have taken place over the past half term.

(Natalie is poorly today so was not in the photograph below)



Musical performances

Congratulations to all of the children who performed in our Achievement Assembly today. All of these children have piano or guitar lessons in school and wanted to share some of the pieces of music which they had been learning.

Victorian Day

On 4th December 2018, to celebrate the school being 125 years old we all dressed up as Victorians (all of us!). There were some amazing outfits, especially the teachers – some people came as formal ladies and gentleman, others came as chimney sweeps and maids. It was a fantastic day which we will all remember!



Football Sessions with Saints South West

This term Saints South West have been working with the classes on developing our football skills. They have also run an extra session for girls on a Friday morning. Next term we are going to be playing tag rugby in the sessions taught by Coach Ben and dance with Marina Saldanha.



NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe

Last week, Collette from the NSPCC came to speak to all of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 about staying safe and knowing what to do if anything is worrying you.

Collette reminded everyone about the number to call if you needed help and had 'Buddy' the speech mark toy to help her. The NSPCC helpline number is 0800 1111.

Purple4Polio

Our School Councillors went to the Abbey to plant crocus bulbs, which had been given to us by the Rotary Club. They are trying to raise awareness about polio, a disease that is still in some countries around the world. A few days later one of the Rotary Club members came to talk to us about polio and how it affects people around the world.



Choristers Programme

This term children from St Mary's have joined Buckfast Abbey Choristers Programme. They practise in the morning before school on some days and also on Thursday after school and on a Sunday. The choristers have been on a trip to Exeter Cathedral this term and also sung at their first Mass in the Abbey on 9th December. Although the choristers have only been practising since September, everyone has been very impressed, including Mr Searles, Mr Arkwright and Miss Deasy the music teachers.



Children in Need

We celebrated Children In Need by dressing in Mufti or 'Pudsey' clothes to raise lots of money for this charity. We raised nearly £300 altogether.

Crib Blessings

Each class at St Mary's led a crib blessing at one of the parish churches. Meldon Class had their blessing in the hall as they would have been too scared to perform in front of lots of people. Venford Class went to Buckfastleigh, Fernworthy class went to Ashburton and Burrator Class went to South Brent Church. Everyone read a part of the service each, which told a story about Jesus' birth and all the people in the nativity. I (Macie-Leigh) read the part about the manger being empty. It is left empty until Christmas Day when Jesus was born and so the baby is placed in the crib. We also sang carols and invited people from the church and our parents/ carers to come along. Afterwards, we had drinks and biscuits and then we left.



Christmas Carol Service

This term St Mary's Catholic Primary School went to Buckfast Abbey for the Carol Service. It took us all a long time to learn our words and our solos. Only Year 6 pupils had solos and Year 5 and 6 children read during the service. All of the children had to learn the carols for the service too.

We started off by walking into the church with lanterns and humming Silent Night. There were lots of people at the Carol Service and some people even had to stand at the back. This made everyone really nervous about saying their words in front of so many people! There were lots of families there but everyone was very proud and happy about what they had achieved.

We had a collection after the service for the Devon Hospices, which is Buckfast Abbey's Millennium Fund and raised lots of money for the charity.



Buckfast Abbey

Meldon Nativity

On Monday 17th December Meldon Class performed their first nativity story for the school. They had two performances, one for the children and one for the parents. Lots of people turned up to support the children. There had been lots of practices beforehand with Miss Haworth and Miss Whitefoot and lots of hard work learning all of the songs.



Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair took place on Friday 14th December at Southpark Community Centre, across the road from St Mary's. We had lots of stalls and thanks to lots of hard work we raised £700 for school funds. There was a range of different stalls ranging from things to interest little children to adults. The stalls included hook at duck, lucky dip, jewellery and Christmas wreaths. We are very grateful to parents, volunteers and our Year 6 prefects for working so hard.



St Nicholas Day

On 6th December, it was St Nicholas Day, so to celebrate Burrator Class went to the Abbey. The theme of the day was 'giving'. There were lots of other schools there and so we got mixed up into groups with the other children. We did three workshops in total. In each one we were asked to give something to a family member or friend and the other thing we made we could keep. We even had to sign a piece of paper to remind us of the promise about giving that we had made.

Choir events

Our school choir is run by Mrs Kerswell and Mrs Manley. We have been practising this term for a number of events including singing at the Christmas fair in Buckfastleigh and at South Brent Church. We also went to visit a care home in Ashburton called St Andrew's House. There are lots of people who live there who are perhaps alone or are not well.