

# St Mary's News



19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Issue 6



## Merry Christmas!

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hopefully you have enjoyed reading St Mary's News this year and are looking forward to the next edition in February.

Sophie N, Jasmine and Ben D

## Samaritan's Purse

Staff, parents and pupils at St Mary's were busy this term collecting and filling shoe boxes in aid of Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Each box was decorated and filled with a range of items such as toiletries and stationery. The boxes were then taken to a drop off point by Mrs Freeborn so that they could be taken to a country where they are most needed.



## St Mary's Crib Blessings

Children from each class at St Mary's went to the parish churches again this year to lead a Crib Blessing Service. Venford Class went to Ashburton Church, Fernworthy went to South Brent and Burrator went to Buckfastleigh. The Art Club prepared background pictures for each of the cribs, in the style of a famous artist and some stars and angels. I really enjoyed the crib service because I got to play the piano to accompany the carol Silent Night. Some pupils read during the service and afterwards we were given a wooden nativity scene by Father Francis and a drink and biscuit.

By Hannah M



## St Mary's Christmas Fair

This year there were several different stalls including sweets, cakes, drinks, Christmas gifts and jewellery. We also had a Scholastic Book Fair at the same time in Meldon. Santa Claus also visited the fair and his grotto was in our reading pavilion. Lots of children visited him and received a Christmas gift.

Thank you to everyone who helped at our Christmas Fair this year. FOSMs raised £700, so we are very grateful to everyone who came to this event.

By Sophie N

### Class celebrations

It was suggested by Lillian B that it would be good to include in our school newspaper some information about exciting lessons that have been taking place in each class this half term. Lillian has written about her favourite lesson in Fernworthy.

#### Fernworthy - Shaduf Making

I loved making shadufs, as part of our work about the Ancient Egyptians. I found out about how they worked and what they were used for. A shaduf is a machine to move water from a lower place to a higher place. Shadufs were used to collect water, originally from the River Nile. They were made of wood and stone. We didn't make our models full size, but made mini versions instead.

By Lillian B

#### Venford – Chutney making

A couple of weeks ago we made chutney in Venford. In my group, we used vinegar, apples and onions. I didn't like using the onions because they made my eyes red. We also wrote some instructions about how to make chutney in our topic books and made a special box to put our chutney into.

By Daisy B-D



#### Burrator – News reports

We have been learning about report writing and as part of this work we had to plan and write a news report which was filmed. We were given a picture and had to use this to write a story. Two people pretended to be in the studio and someone filmed the report. Some people asked questions as part of the report, pretending to be a live reporter.

By Jodie and Denham

### Story Telling at the Abbey

Venford Class were invited to the Abbey for a story telling session. We sat on a special mat in the Guest Hall to listen to the stories. There were four of them altogether and one of them was called The Sock Worm, which was my favourite I really loved hearing it.

By Nicole

### St Nicholas Day

This year Burrator Class attended St Nicholas Day at the Abbey. We were able to do lots of different activities and made two things in each workshop – one to keep and one to give away. Everyone had to sign a pledge in each workshop, to promise to give one of their gifts away. We learnt that St Nicolas was a very generous man who hid presents for good children. So in the spirit of St Nicholas, St Nicolas Day is all about giving and sharing with others.

At the end of the day there was a short service for all of the children who attended from lots of different schools.

The photo below shows Kerys and Sophie C with the Christmas stockings they made at one of the workshops.

By Jasmine



### South Dartmoor Tag Rugby Tournament

Nineteen pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 attended a Tag Rugby Tournament at South Dartmoor Community College this half term. It was a freezing cold evening; however it didn't stop our teams from doing their best and playing some fantastic rugby. The year 3/4 team did very well and beat Stover School in one of their matches. Year 5/6 also played some great games and beat the team from Bovey Tracey with an amazing score of 4-0.

Overall we came third and everyone had a great time.

By Finlay W



### Mucky Pup – Theatre Alibi

We enjoyed watching another play this year produced by Theatre Alibi. This year they performed the play Mucky Pup, based on the book by Ken Brown. The play was performed by three actors, who played lots of different roles. The story linked well to National Anti-Bullying Week, which our school took part in. Burrator Class designed Anti-Bullying posters and five designs were selected as winners and are on display in school. Congratulations to Ben, Sophie C, Kerys, Caitlin and my poster was also chosen as a winner!

In addition, our class also wrote a Children's Anti-Bullying Policy which is also displayed in school and also appears on our school website ([www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk)) in the Pupils' Section.

By Sophie N

### Football Match against Buckfastleigh Primary School

This term our school was invited to play a friendly football match against Buckfastleigh Primary School. Everyone was very excited before the match and two of our players scored, Tye and Joseph, although sadly we were defeated by the Buckfastleigh team. We are looking forward to another match against Buckfastleigh in the new year.

By Ben D

### St Mary's Choir

Our school choir were invited to sing at St Andrew's nursing home this week. All the choir enjoyed the experience and sang beautifully. The choir were also invited to sing with the Newton Abbot Orchestra again this year at the Rotary Club Concert at St Luke's Church. The children performed very well and received lots of complimentary comments about their singing. We also received a letter of thanks from Nigel Core from the Rotary Club who said: 'They were a delight and a credit to the teachers who gave up their time both to rehearse the choir and also to bring them along on a Friday evening. We hope you also enjoyed the concert and on behalf of the club we would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year.'



### Fernworthy's Egyptian Day

Fernworthy Class have been learning all about Ancient Egypt this term. An archaeologist from a local museum came into school to work with us for a whole day and help us learn more about the Ancient Egyptians. We learnt lots of new things and at the end of the day we prepared a Mummification Show for the rest of the school and our parents. I was chosen to be the mummy for the show and I really enjoyed the day!



By Kayla



## COMPETITION!!!!

This Christmas, St Mary's News is launching a festive drawing competition! The best drawing from Venford, Fernworthy and Burrator will be put on the school website and win a prize. All entries must be brought into school and given to Miss Slack by Monday 12th January. Better get creative over the Christmas holidays!

### St Mary's Carol Service

Everyone worked hard to produce a wonderful carol service this year in the Abbey Church. The children who sang and those in the nativity all looked and sounded wonderful – well done!

Please send any ideas or suggestions for St Mary's News to the School Office or email the information to [admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk).