



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast

Headteacher – Mrs Sophie Kerswell

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Tel: 01364 642389. 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025



## Dates for your diary. 😊

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June pm to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July.	Swimming for Burrator & Fernworthy
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July. 9:30am	Leaver's Mass and short assembly at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 10:45am	Y6 Leaver's Special Tea for parents and Y6 children, in the Medieval Guest Hall, Buckfast Abbey.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term. Jumper or t-shirt signing for the Year 6 children.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First day of the Autumn Term.

## Sport's Day Superstars!

Well done to all our children for being brave and strong and having a go! What a wonderful THREE Sport's Days we had, blessed with the beautiful sunshine. The support from family and friends was fantastic and the atmosphere was calm and celebratory. Participation was high and the sportsman like attitudes of our children (and parents), was admirable. There of course has to be a winning team, and this year, the Sport's Day Trophy is awarded to Yellow. A huge thank you to Coaches George and Ryan and Mrs Cherrett for organizing these wonderful days.

Thankyou! 😊

## Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St. Mary's,

Welcome to the final full week of our school year! What an extraordinary summer term we have had – perhaps the most consistently sunny I can remember. Our children have truly made the most of the weather, spending quality time together and exploring every corner of our beautiful school grounds.

So many visitors comment with amazement when they discover just how much space we are blessed with. From our expansive field and woodland (accessed by the children at least twice daily!), to our orchard, Forest School area, wildlife space, and sensory garden – not to mention our striking buildings – we are incredibly fortunate to call this our school environment.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous and ongoing support of **Buckfast Abbey**. The Abbey not only owns our school and grounds, but also dedicates time, care, and resources to maintaining and enhancing our environment for the benefit of our children.

On behalf of all of us at St. Mary's, I offer a heartfelt thank you to **Abbot David**, the **monastic community**, and the incredible team of **gardeners, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, and other skilled workers** who have supported us so kindly and faithfully throughout the year. Your care and commitment have enriched the daily lives of every child in our school.

With thanks and warm wishes,  
Mrs Sophie Kerswell - Headteacher

## Mini Vinnies Craft & Tea Afternoon:

On Monday afternoon, our Mini Vinnies hosted a craft and tea event, bringing together children and parishioners for an afternoon of creativity and companionship. Together, they crafted a range of beautiful items for their "Shop of Good Things," all to raise money for \*Aid to the Church in Need\*. With the support of our fantastic governor, Rachel Ellacott, the children produced a colourful and imaginative array of crafts – from painted pebbles and pompom animals to beaded bracelets and bookmarks. The children were commended for their superb social skills, chatting confidently with guests and thoughtfully serving tea and biscuits. These simple but powerful connections between generations are so valuable – enriching the lives of all who attend. A huge thank you to Father Francis for his support and for helping with transportation. It was a wonderful afternoon of faith in action and community spirit.

**BLP Award:** Aaliyah, Audrey, Harry Melia, Ivy Rae, Hettie, Alex, Oliver, Maisie, Jack, Jonathan, Libby

**WOW Award:** Charlie Bullen, Erin Mills, Dulcie, Larkspur, Wilfred, Ayla, Harrison, Aisha, Eric, Ava W, Lucas

**Times Tables Star:** Eleanor

### Other Awards:

Evie I – Swimming Certificate  
Tabitha – Fun Run Medal  
Lily L – Fun Run Medal  
Oakley – Football Trophy  
Lupin – Hockey Awards



## Staffing and Classes for September

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are pleased to share our staffing and class arrangements. Our priority, as always, is to ensure consistency, high-quality teaching, and strong relationships to support every child's learning and well-being.

- **Meldon (EYFS):** Mrs Kayleigh Teeder & Mrs Jessica Hutchinson
- **Venford (Year 1):** Miss Josie Keir
- **Avon (Year 2):** Mrs Coralie Cherrett & Mrs Donna Waiters
- **Year 3:** Mrs Kerry Manley
- **Fernworthy (Year 4 & 5):** Miss Siobhan Deeny
- **Burrator (Year 5 & 6):** Miss Rebecca Blackhall

We are delighted to **welcome Miss Siobhan Deeny** to our team as class teacher for Fernworthy, and **Mrs Eleanor Sanderson**, who will be joining our team of teaching assistants. All children will spend time with their new teacher during **Moving Up Afternoon on Thursday 17th July**, helping them feel confident and excited about the year ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## Important Reminder – Bottom Gate Use

Please note that the **bottom gate must not be used** at the start or end of the school day, as it is not our main entrance and cannot be safely supervised during busy times.

A small number of families have received permission to use this gate due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. walking from the far end of Buckfast Road). If you have **not received prior agreement**, please use the top gate.

We are currently reviewing our end-of-day arrangements for September and will share updates soon.

If you or a family member finds the hill difficult to manage due to a health condition, we may be able to arrange for your child to be brought up to the top gate. Please speak to us in advance to set this up.

**Thank you for helping us keep every child safe.**

## 🛡️ Safeguarding at St. Mary's Because every child's safety matters.

At St Mary's, keeping our children safe is our highest priority. We are proud to be an **Operation Encompass School**, working in partnership with local agencies to ensure children are protected and supported. You can find out more here:

🔗 [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

## 👥 Who to Contact

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team immediately:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Mrs Sophie Kerswell
  - **Deputy DSLs:** Mrs Jessica Hutchinson and Mrs Kayleigh Teeder
- You can also email any safeguarding concerns directly to:

📧 [safeguarding.stmarys.buckfast@plymouthcast.com](mailto:safeguarding.stmarys.buckfast@plymouthcast.com)



## 📞 Worried About a Child Outside of School?

If you're ever worried that a child is at risk of harm – whether inside or outside of school – you can also make a referral directly to Devon's **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**:

- **Call:** 0345 155 1071

- **Email:** [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)

Let's work together to keep every child safe, happy, and thriving. 💛