

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

As you are aware, St Mary's had its OFSTED inspection recently and we were very proud to have received a good OFSTED grading across all areas inspected. Our school is a member of the Multi Academy Trust called Plymouth CAST. Recently, the central organisation of Plymouth CAST has also been reviewed by OFSTED. There were a number of issues raised, relating to the way in which the central administration of the trust operates. The Governors of St. Mary's, Buckfast, together with the Headteacher, have been aware for some time that the central administration of Plymouth CAST was not able to provide the support which schools are used to, so we sourced the support from elsewhere. There is no doubt that this prudent action by your school's leadership has underpinned the academic attainment of our pupils and contributed to the good outcome of the OFSTED inspection.

The Bishop of Plymouth, Bishop Mark O'Toole, who has pastoral oversight of all Catholic Schools in the Diocese, has written a letter to parents and carers to reassure them that personnel and resources have been brought in to make rapid improvements to the central administration of CAST. This follows the advice of OFSTED and the Department for Education and is expected to swiftly result in the central administration of CAST becoming much more able to provide the support which all the schools in CAST deserve. The letter may be viewed on our school website under newsletters or a paper copy may be obtained from the school office."

Fr Francis

Chair of Governors

READING CHALLENGES

Various reading challenges are being done in school at the moment and, by Christmas, children who read the most will win a small prize. Fernworthy and Venford children have made a great start but only five children have joined in in Burrator. Please encourage your children to get involved – good reading habits can work wonders for your child's learning.

DIARY DATES

Monday 12th December – Crib Blessing, Meldon and toddlers

Wednesday 14th December – Carol Service, Abbey 3.45pm

Thursday 15th December – Meldon and Venford Cinema Trip

Friday 16th December – Fernworthy and Burrator Cinema Trip

Friday 16th December - Last day of term

Tuesday 3rd January – Pupils return

ACTS OF WORSHIP

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class this week is "Our lives are filled with God's love."

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There will be no after school clubs next week – with the exception of the Go Active Sports Club on Monday.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Don't forget we are trialling a breakfast club three mornings a week in January, run by Go Active. Please sign up to give it a try – it costs £3 per day, 8 – 9am.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Thank you to everyone who supported our Extravaganza on Friday. It was a busy but enjoyable couple of hours! We are hoping to have raised £200 - £300 for the FOSMs who will then be able to use it to buy those "little extras" for the children that the curriculum money can't always run to.

However, our fund-raising efforts continue as we are still selling raffle tickets for the draw on Wednesday 14th December. Watson Fuels have paid for the cost of the tickets and have also donated a £50 Toys 'R' us voucher. Mrs Contrasti has already created some great hampers from the donated items (any new items which could be used to make a hamper are still very welcome) and more are on the way. But every raffle ticket sold will be a pound for the children now as we have covered the cost of the £100 first prize. We have a thousand tickets to sell in total so there's a challenge for you! Please could any stubs and money be returned to the office no later than the morning of Wednesday 14th December. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

25th November – 1st December 2016

Meldon	96.26%
Venford	94.78%
Fernworthy	95.22%
Burrator	96.52%
Whole school – this week	95.61%
Year to date	95.315%

This Year's Target is 96%