

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

DONATIONS

Following the receipt of a number of cash donations, we have been able to buy a “wildlife” camera. This camera will be set up in places where we may be able to see wildlife and which activate automatically when they detect movement. We will be putting our camera in various places and one thing we will be hoping to find out is whether it is foxes or badgers which visit the field at night – or maybe both! We will also be buying a new camera to capture our many newsworthy events so that we can send off good quality photos to the newspapers.

CENSUS

At various points of the year, the school has to carry out a census which is used by the government “for the purpose of improving and promoting the education and well-being of children in England.” This year schools were asked for additional information on the nationality, country of birth and English language proficiency of pupils. The collection of this data resulted nationally in some concerns from parents and questioning as to the process and purpose behind it. The government has said that “This new data will help us understand a range of factors, allowing us to better plan to meet needs within the school system. For example, what extra support we may need to provide to schools with high numbers of children who don't speak or understand English sufficiently to access the curriculum, whether particular groups of pupils are making good progress with their education, or where there is evidence of good practice with children of different nationalities that could be shared.” We have assumed that most children are British and born in the UK unless we have been given different information. If you do not want this information to be recorded about your child, please let Mitzi know.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

Drama club is now full for this half term with only a couple of spaces available for the sessions after half term. Cookery club will be starting after half term.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club started this week for a three week trial. The children who have taken part in it said that they “like the variety of games and sports” and that it is good to have “the opportunity to do a sports club in the morning so you're not asleep during your work!” Children may attend the club on an “ad hoc” basis but school must be told the day before and the booking form and payment brought in at the start of the club.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Currently, we have specialist teachers coming to school during the week to teach piano, drums and guitar. A letter will follow next week with information on costs and times.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

6th – 12th January 2017

Meldon	91.10%
Venford	92.50%
Fernworthy	97.39%
Burrator	92.17%
Whole school – this week	93.62%
Year to date	95.04%

This Year's Target is 96%

STOP PRESS! Unfortunately the Bishop was poorly this week so did not visit us. His visit will be re-arranged for later in the year.

ACTS OF WORSHIP

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class next week is “God helps us to choose the right things.”

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

This week, we celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly:

Building Learning Power –Top Scorers!

Meldon – **Theo, Isabel, Dexter**

Venford – **Piotr, Priya, Sophia**

Fernworthy – **Hannah W, Macie-Leigh, Oakley, Jack P**

Burrator – **Evan, Tobias, Scarlett**

Other

Oscar B-W – Trampolining and Martial Arts awards

Esme – Swimming Certificate

