

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY 6TH JULY 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

SAFEGUARDING – KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

There have been a number of reports about games which use “Roblox” which is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however **players of all ages can use the site**. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One. Every game on Roblox is created by users, and there are a wide variety to choose from. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with young people. However, whilst the games are aimed at 8-18 year olds, there are no age restrictions. This means **both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other** on the platform and, because content is user-generated, it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, **some of the games feature weapons and blood**. All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and **this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game**.

For more information go to:-

www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents

TASTERS!

Music - In assembly today, the children were treated to a taster session by a new woodwind teacher, Jade Gall, who is hoping to offer lessons at St Mary's next term. Your child will be bringing home some more information about this today.

Karate - On Wednesday the children in Meldon and Venford will have the chance to take part in a taster lesson for Karate.

BUCKFAST ABBEY CHORISTERSHIPS

Mr Arkwright and Mr Searles have asked me to thank the families who came to the Open Evening about the choristerships at the Abbey. There will be auditions on Saturday 14th July between 10am and 4pm and there are still a couple of slots available for children who may be interested in this super opportunity.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Miss Slack in the first instance.

SAINTS DAY – PRAYER SPACE

Sarah Adams, our RE adviser, is leaving Plymouth CAST and has asked that, rather than a leaving gift, she would like the schools to hold a fund-raising event. Next Friday, 13th July, we will be holding a prayer space celebrating the saints who epitomise the values of courage, joy, resilience, silence and peace. Please could the children come in non-uniform in return for a £1 donation to WORK (<http://www.work-kenya.org>)

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

29th June to 5th July 2018

Meldon	89.05%
Venford	98.18%
Fernworthy	90.83%
Burrator	92.76%
Whole school this week	92.71%
Year to date	94.78%

This year's target – 96%

ACTS OF WORSHIP

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class next week will be “God's Spirit is always with us, giving us hope and strength and helping us show a love that is real.”

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly this week:

Building Learning Power –Top Scorers!

Meldon – **Eva, Libby** Venford – **Suzie, Freddie** Fernworthy – **Ty, Holly B-D** Burrator – **Freya, Harvey**

Other

Charity Fund-raising – **Olivia K**

Bikeability – **Venitia, Jack P, George W, Nicole, Aidan C-W, Finley, Emily, Daisy, Darcie, Olivia K**

Fun Run Medal – **Courtney, George R**

Gymnastics Trophy – **Herbert**