

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY 11TH JANUARY

Dear Parents / Carers

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – Keeping children safe

Online Safety Workshop - In response to requests from a number of parents / carers, we have booked a workshop run by the NPSCC and O² on **Monday 4th February at 2.30pm**. The hour-long workshop will hopefully help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online. As in previous years, we will be working with the pupils across the school about how they can stay safe online on Safer Internet Day, which takes place on the following day.

"IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT" WEEK – 21ST – 25TH JANUARY

At the end of last term, one of our pupils and Mel McMahon, our school counsellor, spoke to the children about the importance of sharing our feelings and recognising how other people might be feeling at different times of the day. We have posters displayed around the school to remind children about this. Following on from this work, we are holding an 'It's OK to be Different' week, celebrating diversity in our school community and in society as a whole. During this week the children will celebrate difference and also think about how to take care of themselves so that they can be the best person they can. One way of doing this is by making the children aware of how to take care of their mental health, in the same way that we teach children about how to stay physically healthy.

We have booked a parent / carer workshop, with an Early Mental Health Practitioner from EH4MH (Early Help for Mental Health) which will give parents / carers the chance to learn more about the work that has been taking place in school and how to support children with their mental health. The workshop will take place on **Tuesday 22nd January from 1.30 - 3.30pm** in school (further details are being sent out with this newsletter). We hope that as many parents / carers will be able to attend to find out more about such an important topic. We will be continuing to work with EH4MH this term as they will be providing training for our older children to become Mental Health Ambassadors at school.

ACTS OF WORSHIP

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class next week will be "We are special people called to do special things."

CHORISTER PROGRAMME

On **Wednesday 23rd January** there will be some taster sessions in school for those children who are eligible to join the programme currently (those in Years 3 - 5) and those eligible in September (Year 2). Further information will be sent out nearer the time, however, if you think your son / daughter would be interested and you would like to know more, please contact Matthew Searles (Assistant Master of the Music): msearles@buckfast.org.uk.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Congratulations to those children who performed in front of the whole school in Achievement Assembly at the end of last term – Lolly, Madeleine, Olivia K and Daisy. All of these children have music lessons during the school day for drums, piano or guitar. If anyone would like further information about the music teachers who visit St Mary's and the cost of lessons, please see Mitzi in the school office.

DOGS' TRUST VISIT

Next **Friday, 18th January**, Stacey, Education and Community Officer for Dogs Trust for Teignbridge, will be visiting St Mary's to teach the children about responsible dog ownership and staying safe around dogs. Their last visit to St Mary's very well received by the children and staff and we hope that the workshops will be just as successful this time. You find out more by visiting:- www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk

ATTENDANCE FIGURES 7th – 11th January 2019

Meldon	89.04%
Venford	97.40%
Fernworthy	97.12%
Burrator	96.35%
Whole school this week	95.39%
Year to date	96.08%

This year's target – 96%

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:

Building Learning Power – Top Scorers!

Meldon – **Nia, Braxton**

Venford – **Eva, Conrad**

Fernworthy – **Dylan, Honey-rose**

Burrator – **George, Macie-Leigh**

Other

Saints SW Sports Certificates – **Jensen, Theo C, Leon, George**

Shetland Pony Magazine Article – **Poppy M**

