



Pupil Progress Meetings

This year the Pupil Progress Meetings for parents / carers will take place on Wednesday 30th October and Tuesday 5th November from 4.00pm – 6.00pm. Letters containing appointment forms for these meetings will be coming home today. We encourage all parents / carers to make an appointment with the class teacher where possible, as it is a good opportunity to meet and talk about the progress your child has made so far this year in school.

Prayer Focus

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class next week is:

"We must show by the way we live that we are filled with the Holy Spirit."

Safeguarding

World Mental Health Day

Yesterday was World Mental Health Day.

Research shows that:

- Roughly three children in every school class have a diagnosable mental health condition
- A staggering 90% of school leaders have reported an increase in the number of students experiencing anxiety, stress or depression over the last five years
- The number of children and young people who have arrived at A&E with a psychiatric condition has more than doubled since 2010

Last year, St Mary's took part in a number of activities to raise an awareness of mental health and promote activities to help to stay mentally healthy. One initiative was to train some of our pupils as Mental Health Ambassadors. This year they are focussing on a number of initiatives such as their role in supporting the other children with concerns, encouraging the younger children to help each other and promoting ways of calming down in school. Further information about how to support young people who are experiencing mental health issues can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> and <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

PE Kits

Please could children leave their PE kit in school during the week so that they can take part in their PE sessions. If anyone has t-shirts or shorts which are no longer required, please donate these to the school for our recycled uniform stand which can be found near Mitzi's office (each item can be bought for a 30p donation). This is well used by parents/carers at St Mary's and so we are always looking for donations of school jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and trousers/ skirts.

Reminders and Dates

Thursday 17th October, 2.45pm - Fernworthy Curriculum afternoon – Fernworthy parents / carers are invited to join their children for soup and a celebration of their topic work on healthy humans this term.

Friday 18th October – Christmas Card order deadline. The Christmas card design that the children completed earlier this term will be sent home today. If you would like to place an order for any cards or other items, please complete the order form and send this back to school by Friday 18th October.

Monday 21st October – Half term starts

Tuesday 29th October – Pupils Return

Wednesday 30th October, 4 – 6pm – Pupil Progress Meetings

Friday 1st November, 9.30am – All Saints Mass

Tuesday 5th November, 4 – 6pm - Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday 13th November – Shoebox deadline

Monday 9th December 2.00pm – Crib Blessing, Burrator, South Brent

Tuesday 10th December 2.00pm – Crib Blessing, Fernworthy, Ashburton

Thursday 12th December 2.00pm – Please note correct date - Crib Blessing, Venford, Buckfastleigh

Tuesday 17th December 2.45pm – Meldon Nativity

Wednesday 18th December 3.45pm – Carol Service

Friday 20th December – Last day of term

Monday 6th January – Pupils return

Purple Mash

This year, St Mary's has purchased a subscription to an online programme called Purple Mash. This is an award-winning cross-curricular website for nursery and primary school children. It enables children to explore and enhance their knowledge in a fun and creative way. The children will have access to these resources in school and also will be able to access them at home. You will be receiving a copy of your child's login details and more information about the programme today (enclosed in envelope being sent out today).

Operation Christmas Child

This year we are again collecting Christmas gifts for children in other countries as part of Operation Christmas Child's appeal. Since 1990, more than 68 million children in over 160 countries have benefited from these gifts. You should receive a leaflet which details the sorts of items that can be used to fill the shoeboxes (further leaflets are available from the school office). This year, toothpaste and sweets are no longer able to be sent in the boxes. Mrs Freeborn and Miss Keir will again be helping to co-ordinate the collection of gifts. If anyone is unable to pack a complete box, but would like to donate some items instead, our School Councillors will be making up shoeboxes using a range of donated items so please take these to the school office.

Shoe boxes will need to be brought into school by **Wednesday 13th November**.

Attendance Figures

This year's target - 96%

4th - 10th October 2019

Meldon	93.83%
Venford	98.93%
Fernworthy	97.50%
Burrator	96.82%
Whole school This week Year to date	96.85% 97.03%

Pupils will be given an envelope today which has detailed information about the importance of regular school attendance and the school's policy on this (which is in line with Devon's attendance policy).

As many of you are aware, attendance has been a focus in St Mary's School Improvement Plan over the past few years and, with your help, we achieved our target of 96% last year.

This year we aim to maintain and hopefully improve what we achieved last school year, with the support of parents / carers and our Education Welfare Officer, Morwenna Griffin.

Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



Building Learning Power - Reflectiveness - Team Tortoise!

Meldon - Jonathan, Ted Venford - Eva, Ollie

Fernworthy - Fliss, Sophia Burrator - Katie, Jessica H

Maths Awards

Meldon - Jessica A Venford - Evangeline, Grace Fernworthy - Suzie, Leon Burrator - Rowan, Imogen

Other

Swimming Awards - Harrison G

Energy Poster Competition -Winner - Marcus Highly Commended - Nia

Thank you to everyone who entered the School Council's poster competition. We were impressed with the quality of the designs and the clear messages that they contained about how to save energy. All of our entrants received a small prize in Achievement Assembly as a reward for their efforts. Members of the Abbey's Education Department kindly agreed to judge the competition and chose Marcus' design - congratulations! His artwork will be displayed around the school to encourage people to turn off lights when not in use. Nia's poster was also 'highly commended'.

Our School Councillors will also work as ambassadors in our school 'saving energy campaign' by encouraging people to turn off lights when they are not in use.

ComPletely
Totally
Proud of
You