



Songs of Praise at Pennywell Farm

Pupils in Year 1 and 2 (Venford Class) have been invited to take part in a special nativity at Pennywell Farm next month. The event will be filmed by the BBC for an episode of Songs of Praise which will be shown on the television later this year.

Thank you to everyone who managed to return the forms and information overnight. Unfortunately, the late request that we take part has meant that we have had to ask for such a quick return of the information. The return date has now been changed to Friday 25th October, which is during half term. We will be contacting those families who haven't been able to return the information yet to make arrangements for the return of forms over half term if parents / carers would like their child to be involved.

We have been asked why birth certificates are required and, we have been told, it is to prove the age of the child involved.

Safeguarding

NSPCC

Last year our pupils had a visit from the NSPCC to talk about their 'Speak Our Stay Safe' campaign.

In school, we encourage the children to talk to someone if they feel worried or uncomfortable about a situation. During a discussion with pupils this term, it was great to hear that pupils refer to the visit and also recall the helpline number, which they had learnt on the day. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange a workshop again for pupils later this academic year.

NSPCC and Childline posters are all around our school so that the children also have access to this support, should they need it. There is lots of information on the NSPCC website to support parents / carers which you may want to refer to:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/>



Prayer Focus

The focus for the acts of worship and prayers in class when we return after half term will be:

"We spread God's love because we are children of light."

To be a child of light is a lovely idea and it is true for each and every one of us. We are all children of God. We are all children of light. We need to make a difference in the world by sharing that light with other people.

Reminders and Dates

Monday 21st October – Half term starts

Tuesday 29th October – Pupils Return
Reminder that there will be a non-pupil day on Monday 28th October so pupils will return to school on Tuesday 29th October. I hope that you have a lovely half term holiday.

Wednesday 30th October, 4 – 6pm – Pupil Progress Meetings. Just a reminder that Pupil Progress meetings are taking place on Wednesday 30th October and Tuesday 5th November. If you haven't already returned your form, but would like an appointment, please speak to Mitzi in the office or sign up on the form in the foyer.

Friday 1st November, 9.30am – All Saints Mass

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

Wednesday 13th November – Shoebox deadline

Friday 15th November – Children in Need – Non-uniform Day in return for £1 donation

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

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

Thursday 12th December, 2.00pm Crib Blessing, Venford, Buckfastleigh

Tuesday 17th December 2.45pm – Meldon Nativity, School Hall

Wednesday 18th December 3.45pm – Carol Service, Buckfast Abbey

Friday 20th December – Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, Last day of term

Christmas Events

Although we are only in October, we have had a number of people ask about our Christmas events so that they can make the necessary arrangements to attend. Listed below are dates for our traditional events. The school choir will also be singing at some local community events, which will be detailed in a separate letter sent to pupils in the choir after half term.

Monday 9th December at 2pm – Crib Blessing at South Brent Catholic Church (St Dunstan's) led by Burrator pupils and parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 10th December at 2pm – Crib Blessing at Ashburton Catholic Church (Our Lady of Lourdes and St Petroc) led by Fernworthy pupils and parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Thursday 12th December at 2pm – Crib Blessing at Buckfastleigh Catholic Church (St Benedict's) led by Venford pupils and parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 17th December at 2.30pm – Meldon's nativity in the School Hall, parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 18th December at 3.45pm – Carol Service in Buckfast Abbey, parents / carers are welcome to attend.

Friday 20th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch. As in previous years, there will be a separate letter providing more information about this but it will follow a similar format of two sittings, the first of which is at 12.00 at the Conference Centre at Buckfast Abbey.

Attendance Figures

This year's target - 96%

11th – 17th October 2019

Meldon	98.35%
Venford	93.93%
Fernworthy	92.92%
Burrator	99.09%
Whole school This week Year to date	95.93% 96.89%

Devon Wildlife Champions

This week the School Councillors attended a special event organised by the Devon Wildlife Trust at Slapton Ley. The children learnt about different ways of protecting wildlife and about the importance of recycling. We hope that all pupils will be 'Devon Wildlife Champions' this academic year, as our School Council will hopefully be developing ways to encourage wildlife in our school grounds and in the local area. The children came back very enthusiastic about what they had learnt. They also returned with a number of gifts from the course including a big bird box and some vouchers to spend on seeds to plant. Many thanks to Mrs Taylor (Ollie's mum), who accompanied us on the visit.

Teign House (Green Team) can wear non uniform on Friday 1st November. They beat Taw by only six points!

Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



Building Learning Power - Reflectiveness - Team Tortoise!

Meldon – Thomas, Scarlett Venford – Rumer, Harrison H
Fernworthy – Poppy W, Cherry Burrator – Ryan, Renais

Maths Awards

Meldon – Maria Venford – Max, Libby Fernworthy – Lolly, Honey-rose Burrator – Hollie P, Katie

Other

Swimming Awards – Rebecca

Most House points – Teign House

