



# NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## FOSMs Christmas Fundraiser

Next Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Non-uniform Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Raffle Draw & Refreshments

Many thanks to those of you who have already bought raffle tickets and have returned the money to school. We have been really pleased with the prompt return of some tickets and with the requests for more! Please keep it up – if we all sell our allocation, together we will raise over £400. We have a non - uniform day next Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, and we hope that the children will bring in donations which can be used to fill some Christmas hampers for our Christmas Raffle.

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December in the School Hall, straight after the Christmas Carol Service in the Abbey Church. FOSMs are providing refreshments and are organising a few stalls to buy seasonal items from. If you would like to hire a table for the event in return for a £5 donation, please see Mitzi in the school office or one of the members of FOSMs.

## Safeguarding

The lead up to Christmas is a fun and exciting time, but for some pupils it can be a very difficult time, and leave them feeling anxious, lonely or stressed. Young Minds, a charity which works to make sure that children get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties, has suggestions about how to support children and young people and provide opportunities for them to discuss how they are feeling. Further advice about their #Take 20 campaign can be found at:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/take20/>

## Prayer Focus

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

*"God calls us to choose things that make a difference to people."*

This coming Sunday is Advent Sunday and marks the first week in the liturgical (church) calendar, as well as starting our preparation for Christmas. Advent is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The Gospel for this week (Matthew Chapter 24:37-44) reminds us that we must be ready when Jesus comes again. We cannot be sure exactly when that will be, so we must try to be ready all the time by following the example of Jesus in our daily lives.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are often very busy, so to help the children consider how they can think of others and prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas, we are holding a Prayer Space in our School Chapel. The children will be able to visit this in small groups over the next few weeks. For those families new to the school, a prayer space is an area that has been transformed for a few days or a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection.

## Reminders and Dates

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – St Nicholas' Day, Buckfast Abbey – Burrator out

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 3.45pm** – Half Price Book Fair in school

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – FOSMs Non-uniform Day

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** – Crib Blessing, Burrator, South Brent

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** – Crib Blessing, Fernworthy, Ashburton

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** Crib Blessing, Venford, Buckfastleigh

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2.45pm** – Meldon Nativity, School Hall

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 3.45pm** – Carol Service, Buckfast Abbey

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** approx. 4.45pm, FOSM's Christmas Raffle & refreshments, School Hall

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, Last day of term

## Coming Events

### Buckfast Christmas Food and Craft fair

Buckfast Abbey are holding a Christmas Food and Craft Fair tomorrow, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10am - 4pm. Our Choristers will also be singing during the event. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-food--craft-fayre>

### Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, our School Choir has been invited to sing at Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair. I know our pupils are looking forward to this, so, if you wish to attend, the event takes place from 3pm until 8pm. A separate letter has been given to the children in the choir about the arrangements for the evening.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Just a reminder that we shall be holding our Half Price Book Fair in school starting next Thursday and running each afternoon after school until Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. As the name suggests, everything is half price so there are usually some great bargains to be found. As part of our ongoing work to help promote a love of reading (and, also, to give some of the adults chance to look around without the children!), we are holding story sessions in the library each day after school from 3.45pm until 4.00pm. If you would like your child to join the story sessions, please deliver them to the staff in the Library before going to the Fair itself which will be set up in the corridor outside Meldon.

Gift vouchers can be purchased in advance which will give 20% extra buying power:-

[www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers)

Every family making a purchase from the Book Fair will be entered into a draw for one of five £5 vouchers to make an extra purchase from the Fair.

## Car Park Safety

Just a reminder that the speed limit in our Car Park is ten miles an hour and, wherever possible, we try to follow the one way system and park in the marked spaces. We have made compromises with the bus so that we can free up more space at the end of the day but in the mornings, please can everyone use the space correctly. Also please ensure that your children are close to you when crossing the car park as they are all too small to be seen by other drivers if they are behind the parked cars. We have had some near misses recently so please be extra vigilant.

## Attendance Figures

**This year's target - 96%**

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Meldon	<b>95.82%</b>	
Venford	<b>95.71%</b>	
Fernworthy	<b>95.65%</b>	
Burrator	<b>97.27%</b>	
<b>Whole school This week Year to date</b>	<b>96.08% 96.71%</b>	

## School Council

Our School Council are working hard on many fronts this year as they are our Eco Council and Wildlife Champions as well. Their wildlife project is focussing on taking care of British birds. This month, they have devised a questionnaire for Venford, Fernworthy and Burrator Class pupils to find out what they know about British Birds already. Pupils will be completing these in class and then the results will be analysed by our School Councillors. They will share the results in the next school newspaper which will be published on the last week of term.

The Council are also responsible for new signs appearing by light switches across the school reminding people to turn lights off. The children are hoping to encourage us all to make small changes, at school and at home, which could add up to a big difference for the future of our planet.

## ShareShed

St Mary's has been asked to promote a local initiative called 'ShareShed - A Library of Things'.

This project encourages people to share items and pay a small hire charge, rather than buying the item outright, as a way of trying to reduce waste. Currently this takes place at 16 High Street in Totnes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 4pm and Saturdays from 10am - 1pm. However, they are hoping to set up another hiring station in the Buckfastleigh area in the new year. More information can be found at:

<https://www.shareshed.org.uk/>