



# NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## FOSMs Christmas Fundraiser

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
School Hall  
after Carol Service

## Crib Blessings

Next week there are Crib blessings in each Parish Church. These are a short service to mark the arrival of the nativity scenes, which we have decorated, in each of the Parish Churches. The Art Club have once again been responsible for creating the sheep and angels for each crib.

Parents / carers and parishioners are encouraged to come to these brief services to share in this important moment with the children. Please come along if you are able to do so.

## Safeguarding

### NSPCC "PANTS" CAMPAIGN

The NSPCC have developed a programme of information which teaches children about keeping their private parts private. We talk about the NSPCC Pants Rule at school and posters are displayed in our toilets to remind the children about this. There is a lot of information about the programme on the NSPCC website:

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

- P - Privates are private
- A - Always remember your body belongs to you
- N - No means no
- T - Talk about secrets that upset you
- S - Speak up someone can help



## Prayer Focus

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

*"Our lives are filled with God's love."*

We have already started our countdown to Christmas in school by talking about the season of Advent which marks the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This Sunday's Gospel comes from St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 3 verses 1-12. It tells the story of John the Baptist and reminds us of the role in played in preparing the way for Jesus, by teaching others how they should live.

Outside the school office is a special Advent calendar which suggests some of the little things that we can do each day that make a real difference to others. This Advent, we are encouraging the children to think about small changes like these which they can make, as a way of preparing for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

## Reminders and Dates

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** – Crib Blessing, Burrator, St Dunstan's Church, South Brent

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** – Crib Blessing, Fernworthy, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Petroc's Church, Ashburton

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm** Crib Blessing, Venford, St Benedict's Church, Buckfastleigh

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Choir singing at St Andrew's House

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Choir singing at St Luke's Lunch Club

**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, Christmas Raffle and refreshments, School Hall

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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Term starts

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term starts

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – Pupils return

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Last day of term

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April** – Term starts

## Primary School Places

If you have a child who is due to start primary school in September 2020, the application process will close on 15 January 2020.

You can apply online :

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place> or you can fill in a hard copy of the application form, which can be requested by calling the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

## Attendance Figures

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

**29<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Meldon	<b>96.30%</b>
Venford	<b>96.43%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>99.13%</b>
Burrator	<b>97.27%</b>
<b>Whole school</b>	
<b>This week</b>	<b>97.23%</b>
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>96.75%</b>

## Christmas Events

### Songs of Praise

The episode of Songs of Praise which was filmed at Pennywell Farm, involving children from Venford Class, will be show on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm.

### Mini-Messy Church Advent:

This Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 3-5pm in Holne Church

Pupils have been invited to come and make some decorations in the church, followed by a short all-age celebration to reflect on the season. Messy Church session starts at 3pm and finishes at 4.30pm with a Celebration. All ages welcome to 'get messy'!

## First Holy Communion

We are hoping to support the Parish by helping to prepare children for First Holy Communion. If you are interested in this and would like to find out more, please see Miss Slack. For those of you who have expressed an interest, we would like to know final numbers by the end of term (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December).

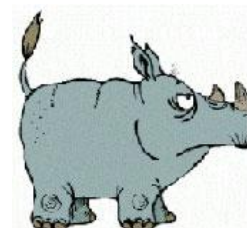
## Building Learning Power

Building students learning power is about:

- Helping young people to help themselves become better learners
- Developing students' learning habits
- Preparing young people for a lifetime of learning

We are now focussing on Rhino resilience which means:

- Losing yourself in your learning
- Managing distractions
- Noticing
- Persevering



## Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



### Building Learning Power - Resourcefulness - Team Rhino!

Meldon – Sophia-rose, Ayrton Venford – Evangeline, Kyree  
Fernworthy – Honey-rose, Lolly Burrator – Jessica H, Ryan



### Maths Awards

Meldon – Charlie T Venford – Max, Dexter Fernworthy – Riley AJ, Olivia J Burrator – Imogen, Holly B-D

### Witness of the week

Meldon – Jessica A Venford – Theo S-G Fernworthy – Amélie Burrator – Taylor

### Other

Saints SW Awards – Harrison M, Bertie, Neveah, Mariska, Amélie, Riley AJ, Ryan, George