



# NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## FOSMs Christmas Fundraiser

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

## Crib Blessings

Thank you to everyone who attended the crib blessings this week - the pupils and staff really appreciated the support. The children did exceptionally well, despite some nerves before the event. It was also lovely to see so many parishioners attending the event too. Our thanks go to Father Francis for organising and attending all of the services.

## Safeguarding

### Internet of Things

The Internet of Things, often referred to as IoT, are everyday objects that connect to the internet. These connected devices can be activated using voice commands, or controlled by downloading and using an app or via a Bluetooth connection. For example, Smart speakers, smart meters (for electricity and heating) or "wearables" such as fitness trackers.

Although connected devices and toys provide children with opportunities for learning and interactive play, there are risks associated with the Internet of Things:

- Concerns have been raised about whether these devices are collecting too much personal information from children.
- Some children (either accidentally or on purpose) are able to search for and access age-inappropriate material via a connected device such as a smart speaker.
- Children may make 'in-app purchases' and spend money, which is often taken from their parents' bank account without their knowledge or consent.
- Some of these devices may be more vulnerable to hacking and monitoring, as there are currently no security standards in place for connected devices.

For information on things you can do to minimise these risks go to <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

## Prayer Focus

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

*"We must bring the love of God to others."*

The Gospel this week comes from St Matthew, Chapter 11 verses 2-11. The reading talks about how Jesus came to heal the sick and to bring good news to the poor. We are going to think about how we can be that 'good news' and help to change the lives of others both in our local community and around the world.

## Pupil Chaplaincy

This week pupils in Year 4 and 5 received a letter about expressing an interest in training to be a Pupil Chaplain. The Pupil Chaplains will help with various things in school, for example, developing ideas for prayer and liturgy in school or developing the use of the chapel.

We have already had some letters of application for this role, but if your son / daughter is interested in applying and you have any questions about this, please feel free to come and see me.

## Reminders and Dates

**No Clubs next week** – All clubs have now ended and will resume w/c Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1.15pm** – BBC 1 Songs of Praise, Venford at Pennywell Farm

**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. All the seats have now been allocated for this event.

**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

## Carol Service Arrangements

Towards the end of the school day on Wednesday, the children will have a drink and a biscuit or some fruit at school and walk over to the Abbey together for the start of the service at 3.45pm. Meldon children will be picked up at 3.15pm from school and may go home at this point or attend the Carol Service with parents.

Last year there was an increased number of young children attending the service – because this is quite a long and more formal event, as it takes place in the Abbey church, colouring materials, books and activities will be available in the side chapels (behind where the children are singing). If you are bringing young children with you to this event we would ask that you take them to either of the side chapels, where they will be able to do some activities to help them to stay occupied during the service.

After the Carol Service, there will be refreshments available in the School Hall and the opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts, including the gifts that the children have made in their classes. The FOSMs Christmas raffle will be drawn at this time. If anyone would like to have their own stall in the hall for this event (£5 donation for FOSMs), please let Mitzi know.

If you can help serve the refreshments, that will be greatly appreciated, please let Mrs Chew or Mitzi know if you are available.

## Attendance Figures

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

**6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Meldon	<b>70.61%</b>
Venford	<b>95.71%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>96.52%</b>
Burrator	<b>98.18%</b>
<b>Whole school This week Year to date</b>	<b>90.15% 96.25%</b>

## Christmas Lunch

Our thanks go to the Conference Centre at Buckfast Abbey for organising and hosting our Christmas lunch again this year. As this is such a popular event, unfortunately we are now full on both sittings, however Mitzi does have a waiting list if anyone wishes to add their name.

## Christmas Events

As we approach the last week of term, we have a busy schedule in the build up to Christmas. We have some Christmas activities for the children, including Waste Free Christmas workshops, run by Resource Futures in conjunction with Devon County Council on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Then, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, Elfic the Juggler will be entertaining the children and we also hope that there may be a visit from Father Christmas during the morning!

## Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



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

Meldon – Archie H, Sophia-rose    Venford – Cally, Bridie  
Fernworthy – Priya, Neo    Burrator – Archie S, Hollie P



### Maths Awards

Meldon – Adsie    Venford – Libby, Neveah    Fernworthy – Sophia, Theo C    Burrator – Alice, Oscar

### Witness of the week

Meldon – Clara    Venford – Bridie    Fernworthy – Ruby    Burrator – Renais

### Other

Saints SW Awards – Cici, Jonathan, Eva, Ruby, Holly B-D

Karate Grading – Dexter,    Swimming Award – Dylan,    Song and Dance Medal - Leon