



## RE and Prayer Life

This week in school I have been talking to the children about RE and prayer in school. They have shared some very positive comments about RE lessons, including that they enjoy hearing stories from the Bible, finding out more about other religions and having the chance to reflect on their own faith.

This term, class prayers have taken a different format, which the children have all responded positively to. The sessions include the use of reflective music which most children said that they found calming and restful. One child commented that, during the reflection times, 'It was like God was whispering in my ear.' I hope that we can continue to develop RE this year using feedback from the children and the ideas and enthusiasm demonstrated by our newly appointed Pupil Chaplains.

## Fire Safety Talks

Just a reminder that, on Thursday, we have arranged for the children in Venford and Burrator to have a talk about Fire Safety. The children will attend this talk, unless you have returned the opt out form.

## Fernworthy Escot Trip

We will be making a decision about whether this trip can go ahead at the start of next week. If you haven't already done so, please could you ensure that the form is returned to school on Monday so that we can verify whether or not we will have sufficient funds for the trip to go ahead.

## Safeguarding

### Mental Health Week

Next week is national 'Children's Mental Health Week'. This year's theme is 'Find your brave.' During the week, PSHE lessons in school will be focussed on this theme and we have organised a 'wellbeing day' on Friday. Coach Ben will work with each class and deliver a wellbeing session to promote physical and mental health. Further information about Children's Mental Health Week can be found at:

[www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/)

## Prayer Focus

I hope that every family has received a copy of this week's The Wednesday Word. This week's word is 'hope' and relates to this week's Gospel (St Luke 2:22-40) which tells the story of Simeon who recognised Jesus as God's son when he was taken to the Temple.

*"Dear Lord Jesus*

*Thank you for the hope and light you bring to our lives. Please help us to bring light and hope to others too.*

*Amen."*

## Reminders and Dates

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Children's Mental Health Week - activities relating to positive mental health will take place during this week

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Fire Safety talks

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day - online safety activities will take place during this week

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2.45pm** – Dance celebration for parents / carers. A separate letter about this event will be sent out nearer the time but the event will be limited to two tickets per family.

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

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Non Pupil Day

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

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – Fair Trade Cake Sale

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Parent / Carer Pupil Progress Meetings

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent / Carer Pupil Progress Meetings

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – St Mary's World Book Day – A separate letter about this event will be sent out nearer the time. Our theme for this year's World Book Day is based on the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt and the children will be asked to dress in colours relating to this book.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – Reception and Year 6 Weighing and Measuring

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Meldon Learning afternoon for parents / carers

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Fernworthy Escot Trip

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.15am

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

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return

## Choristers

The Chorister Programme offered by the Music Department at Buckfast Abbey is now well established at St Mary's involving pupils from Year 3 and above. The programme includes vocal and piano tuition for the pupils involved and also the opportunity to sing as part of the Abbey Choir.

During the Spring term the Music Department at Buckfast Abbey offer taster sessions in school to explain to the children what being a chorister entails. This year the sessions will take place in school on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February. There will also be a session for families to attend to explain more about the programme works.

A letter from the Music Department will be sent home soon, which will give further information about this opportunity.

## School Nursing Team

This week we have had a visit from a member of the School Nursing Team. They asked the school to remind parents / carers that they can refer directly into the service, should they need health advice.

The School Nursing Team for this area can be contacted on 0333 234 1901 for advice and to make a referral. You can also text for information or advice via ChatHealth on 07520 631 721. Further information can also be found online at:

<https://devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health/public-health-nursing>.

## Attendance Figures

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

**24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Meldon	<b>98.94%</b>
Venford	<b>92.50%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>99.23%</b>
Burrator	<b>95.91%</b>
<b>Whole school</b>	
<b>This week</b>	<b>96.64%</b>
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>95.80%</b>

## Request for equipment

As you know, we are trying to build a collection of items to use in activities designed to support children's social and emotional wellbeing. Thank you to those people who have already donated items for use in school. We are still short of small toys / play figures and lego, so if you have any of these items which you don't need any more please bring them into school and give them to Mitzi in the school office.

## Headlice

There have been a few cases of headlice reported in school over the past couple of weeks. Please could you make sure that you check your child's hair regularly. There are a small number of detection combs available from the office and information online about how to treat them <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.

## Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



**Building Learning Power - Reflectiveness - Team Tortoise!**

Meldon - Clara, Eric Venford - Max, Evangeline  
Fernworthy - Riley W, Poppy W Burrator - Renais, Imogen



**Maths Awards**

Meldon - Rainn Venford - Harry H, Cally Fernworthy - Neo, Isaac Burrator - Caoimhin, Hollie P

**Witness of the Week**

Meldon - Jessica Venford - Charlie B Fernworthy - Courtney Burrator - Rowan

**Other**

Saints SW - Ava, Alex, Honey-rose, Alice