



Coronavirus - DfE advice

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad. The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate.

Advice for parents / carers

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

However we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting China. Public Health England and the Foreign Office have issued advice for anyone travelling to the area. This can be found at:

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the link above.

Latest information and advice on the Coronavirus can also be found at:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Safeguarding

Swiggle - child-friendly search engine

Swiggle.org.uk is a friendly search engine aimed at children in Key Stage 2. It has been designed and developed by South-west Grid for Learning, a charity dedicated to empowering the safe and secure use of technology. Swiggle.org.uk gives children a great start in encouraging responsible online searching. The internet is a vast resource, and some content is not appropriate for children, SWGfL recommends adding Swiggle to your browser or put the Screen Cover link on your bookmark bar. Swiggle is powered by Google Custom Search, the results are filtered using Google SafeSearch, and SWGfL has configured the results to prioritise educational resources. Swiggle also filters the search terms to check that it is not being used to search for inappropriate content. Further information for parents / carers can be found here:

<https://swiggle.org.uk/parents/>

Prayer Focus

This week the word is "goodness" and this week's Gospel talks about how we can be a "light for the world" demonstrated in our words and actions towards others.

"Dear Lord Jesus

You are the source of all goodness. Thank you for all the people who help us to grow in goodness and become the best that we can be.

Amen."

Reminders and Dates

Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day - online safety activities will take place throughout next week

Friday 14th February - Reading challenge for Meldon and Venford finishes

Friday 14th February, 2.45pm – Dance celebration for parents / carers. A letter with two tickets per family was sent out yesterday. Please return any unwanted tickets to school so that we have an idea of numbers attending. Thank you.

Monday 17th February – Half term starts

Tuesday 25th February – Pupils return

Thursday 27th February – Chorister Taster Day in school

Friday 28th February – Fair Trade Cake Sale

Tuesday 3rd March – Parent / Carer Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday 4th March – Parent / Carer Pupil Progress Meetings

Friday 6th March – St Mary's World Book Day – A separate letter about this event will be sent out nearer the time.

Thursday 12th March – Reception and Year 6 Weighing and Measuring

Monday 16th March – Meldon Learning afternoon for parents / carers

Monday 16th March – Fernworthy Escot Trip

Friday 27th March – Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.15am

Friday 27th March – Last day of term

Tuesday 14th April – Pupils return

Friday 8th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May – Half term starts

Tuesday 2nd June – Pupils return

Tuesday 21st July – Last day of term

Attendance

As you will be aware, we continue to work hard to improve attendance for all of our pupils. As you can see from the figures, partly due to the high incidence of illness across the school before Christmas, we are currently below our 96% target. It is imperative that any unnecessary absences from school are kept to a minimum for every child in order to maximize their opportunity for learning. Wherever possible, please arrange medical appointments and holidays outside the school day / term time.

Our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Morwenna Griffiths, who monitors the attendance of each child, visited the school this week as part of our continued focus. She is always happy to talk to parents / carers and give advice. If you would like to contact her either see Mitzi in the office or you can call her on 01392 287223.

In order to help keep you informed, next week we shall be sending out a summary of your child's attendance for the year to date.

PE Kit

Just a reminder that the school PE kit consists of:-

- Pale blue PE t-shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Black / navy shorts
- Trainers / plimsolls.

In addition, for **outdoor PE sessions** in the winter, the children are also allowed to wear dark coloured jogging bottoms / leggings **over** their shorts.

Attendance Figures

This year's target - 96%

31st January – 6th February 2020

Meldon	99.29%
Venford	97.86%
Fernworthy	96.54%
Burrator	95.45%
Whole school This week Year to date	97.41% 95.89%

Mental Health

This week children have been carrying out activities linked to developing positive mental health. Children's Mental Health Week has the theme "Find your brave". Last year, our Mental Health Ambassadors came up with the idea of creating a wellbeing garden in school as a place where children could sit and talk during breaktimes. We were very fortunate to have the Abbey Gardens Department help us to create the garden. The garden has been recognised in a recent RHS article published as part of their promotion of Mental Health Week. If you would like to read this, please follow the link below:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/news/news-results/national/2020/february/children-s-mental-health-week>

Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



Building Learning Power - Reflectiveness - Team Tortoise!

Meldon – Bertie, Sophia-rose Venford – Max, Rebecca
Fernworthy – Fliss, Suzie Burrator – Rowan, Katie



Maths Awards

Meldon – Ayrton Venford – Bridie, Marcus Fernworthy – Abi, Jack Y Burrator – Ty, Poppy M

Witness of the Week

Meldon – Ngaio Venford – Libby Fernworthy – Leon Burrator – Imogen

Other

Saints SW – Rainn, Conrad, Riley W, Poppy M

Swimming – Maria, Conrad

Piano – Conrad

Karate - Peter