



## First Holy Communion

For those people who have expressed an interest in their child preparing for First Holy Communion, just a reminder that preparation for this will begin after half term, every Monday. The sessions will start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 3.30 - 4.40pm with Miss Slack. Please could children bring a copy of their baptismal certificate into school on or before that date so that these can be passed to Father Francis.

We are pleased to congratulate one of our pupils, Natalie, who, this week, celebrated the Rite of Catechumen in St Mary's School Chapel with friends, family and the school Choristers.

This was a very special occasion for Natalie as she prepares for baptism and First Holy Communion, but also a special occasion for the school as this was the first service to be held in our School Chapel this year.

## Safeguarding

### Realistic Imitation Firearms

We have recently received information from Devon and Cornwall Police asking schools to remind parents / carers about the law surrounding the possession of Realistic Imitation Firearms (RIFs) and other offensive weapons such as knives and to warn purchasers of the vulnerable position they put themselves in if they fall into the wrong hands. It is illegal to import, manufacture, modify, possess or sell a RIF, whether in a private or public place, as they are prohibited weapons within the UK. Persons carrying such items could find themselves at risk of being arrested, and there is a high possibility that an armed police unit will be deployed to deal with any perceived threat.

The police have come across young people purchasing these items online due to the cheap prices and/or because they know that if they order from non-EU sites they can order prohibited items.

## Prayer

This week pupils will have brought home a booklet which contains The Wednesday Word for the next three Sundays. We return from the half term holiday on Shrove Tuesday which marks the day before the start of Lent in the Church's calendar. The season of Lent gives us a chance to reflect on our lives and perhaps think about how we could become a better person. Sometimes this might involve giving something up, although we shall be encouraging the children to think about how they can make a positive change during Lent and to see if they can keep this Lent Promise throughout the forty days, which lead up to Easter Day. To mark the start of Lent, on Ash Wednesday the children will take part in a special service in school which will be led by the children and Father Francis, our Chair of Governors and Parish Priest. On that day, we will also be welcoming the Diocesan Schools' Commissioner, Mrs Sarah Barreto, to St Mary's.

*"Dear Lord Jesus*

*Please bless all the people in my life who teach me. Thank you for being my friend and teacher. Please help me to learn and grow in your love.*

*Amen."*

## Reminders and Dates

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

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

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Chorister Taster Day in school

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

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – Taw (Blue team) non-uniform day

**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

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

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

**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

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May** – Half term starts

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Pupils return

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Last day of term

## Support for families

This half term we are going to trial two new initiatives designed to offer support to parents/carers in our school.

### 'Talk Time'

Firstly, we shall be starting an informal support group for parents / carers at St Mary's, to give people the opportunity to share ideas, strategies and to offer mutual support. This will take place on Tuesday afternoons from 2.45pm - 3.30pm and will be facilitated by Mel McMahon, who has previously worked at the school as a counsellor. There will also be refreshments available during the afternoon. You don't need to book for this session please just come along.

### 'Drop ins'

We are also going to offer parent / carer 'drop ins' with Mel on Tuesday mornings between 8.40am and 9.10am. These slots are intended to give you the opportunity to talk through anything relating to your child / children. It might be something that concerns you, something that you would like advice about or just want support to think of different strategies when you feel like you have tried everything! These sessions will be **booked in 15 minute slots** - please see Mitzi in the school office to sign up for one of these sessions.



## Attendance Figures

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

**7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Meldon	<b>98.56%</b>
Venford	<b>99.31%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>97.76%</b>
Burrator	<b>99.55%</b>
<b>Whole school This week Year to date</b>	<b>98.77% 96.04%</b>

## Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of our ongoing work to secure Fairtrade School status, we shall be holding a cake sale on the first Friday back after half term (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February) to mark Fairtrade Fortnight. We shall be very grateful to receive donations of cakes and biscuits either homemade with Fairtrade ingredients or certified as Fairtrade products (look for the Fairtrade logo - see below).

All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Fairtrade Foundation which campaigns to raise awareness of the needs of producers in developing countries, convince people of the good reasons to buy Fairtrade products and to persuade policymakers to change unfair trade systems.



## Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



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

Meldon - Fraser, Hazel Venford - Conrad, Alex  
Fernworthy - Madeleine, Amélie Burrator - Dani, Natalie



### Maths Awards

Meldon - Jack C Venford - Theo S-G, Ned Fernworthy - Ruby, Poppy W Burrator - Rowan, Caoimhin

### Witness of the Week

Meldon - Sonny Venford - Grace Fernworthy - Sophia Burrator - Ty

### Other

Saints SW - Charlie T, Rebecca, Sophia, Ty  
Gym & Book Club - Alice Golf Trophy - Jack Y

### Most house points this half term

Taw (Blue Team) - Non uniform Day - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February