



NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 6th March 2020

Coronavirus COVID-19

Department for Education helpline

The Department of Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) related to education.

Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England.

Schools receive, on a daily basis, advice from Public Health England and the government. See:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Safeguarding

Early Help

Early Help is the extra support your family can get if you need it. It may be that you want to prevent a problem, or change things for your family before a problem becomes more serious. It is not a specific service or team, it's an approach that brings together people from a range of services and teams who will work together with your whole family to help improve the situation for everyone. It can offer support to families with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour. By identifying and building on your strengths as a family, we can help and support you to find long term solutions to your issues, as well as developing your skills to help you manage any future challenges.

You will have one main point of contact. This could be someone you already have a good relationship with such as a youth worker or health visitor. They will be known as your lead worker and they will help you access the services you need quickly and easily.

The information you and your family provide will only be shared with the people who need to know about it, and only with your permission. You and your family will be central to drawing up your goals, and no decisions will be made without your involvement.

To get help, talk to someone you are already in contact with, for example a teacher, youth worker, health visitor, your GP, or call 0345 1551071. The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, and Saturday, 9am-1pm. You can search <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/> for details of community services and groups available in Devon.

Prayer Focus

This week's Gospel comes from St Matthew's Gospel (17:1-9) which is printed in this week's copy of The Wednesday Word which was sent home via pupil post. The word chosen for this week is 'encouragement.' When we listen to and follow Jesus our lives are transformed and we can grow in love and faith with words of encouragement.

"Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for coming to strengthen and encourage us. Help us to be more like you - to be an encouragement to those around us. Amen."

Reminders and Dates

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

Friday 13th March – Sport Relief Day

Monday 16th March – Meldon Learning afternoon, 2.45pm

Monday 16th March – Fernworthy Trip

Tuesday 17th March – Venford Stover Trip

Thursday 26th March – Burrator 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

Monday 7th September – Pupils return

"Chorister for a day"

Just a reminder that the children in Year 2 and above have the chance to be a Chorister for a day at Buckfast Abbey this Sunday, 8th March at 1.15pm. There will be the chance to sing with the current choristers, see a short presentation about the Chorister programme and an opportunity to ask questions. At 3 o'clock the choristers will sing a short service in the Abbey, to which all are invited. There will be auditions after school on 11th, 12th or 13th March. Email msearles@buckfast.org.uk.

Fund-raising

Fairtrade Cake Sale

Many thanks to everyone who supported the cake sale last week. Together, we raised £70 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Sport Relief

Next Friday is Sport Relief and to raise money we are asking people to come into school dressed in sportswear or as their favourite sportsperson in exchange for £1 donation.

Coach Ben has planned some inter-team activities including a hula hoop challenge – a "Hula-athlon". He has estimated the average waist size of children in each class and each rotation of the hoop will count as that distance. To see how far we could get as a school or class, the number of hoop rotations that each child does in a certain time will be multiplied by the average waist size for each class.

CAFOD Raffle

One of our pupils, Ryan, is organising a raffle to raise money for CAFOD in memory of his grandad. Tickets cost 50p and are available from outside Mitzi's office and the raffle itself will be drawn on Sunday 19th April.

Attendance Figures

This year's target - 96%

28th February – 5th March 2020

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Meldon | 91.34% |
| Venford | 99.66% |
| Fernworthy | 95.77% |
| Burrator | 96.19% |
| Whole school | |
| This week | 95.76% |
| Year to date | 96.12% |

Achievement for All

Thank you to those families who have sent comments back already or agreed to meet with people from the Achievement for All project. If you have still got comments to make, please could you send these back by Monday.

First Holy Communion

Just a reminder that sessions for children preparing for First Holy Communion are taking place on Mondays straight after school until 4.30pm.

Apologies any confusion caused last week by a misprint of the finishing time.

World Book Day

Today the children have taken part in some activities linked to the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. They will receive a book voucher today which can be used in exchange for a World Book Day book for £1 or towards another book of your choice at participating book shops. It was also an appropriate day for our librarians, George and Poppy M, to choose eighty-four books from the School Library Service for our library.



Achievement Assembly

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:



Building Learning Power - Resourcefulness - Team Beaver!

Meldon – Eric, Jack C Venford – Cally, Mariska
Fernworthy – Toby, Courtney Burrator – Ty, Renais

Maths Awards

Meldon – Harrison M Venford – Robun, Charlie B
Fernworthy – Amélie, Sophia Burrator – Katie, Taylor

Witness of the Week

Meldon – Maria Venford – Jenson Fernworthy – Riley W Burrator – Alice

Other

Saints SW – Jack C, Max, Priya, Katie

Kickboxing Grading – Taylor

Martial Arts Grading – Theo S-G