



NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 1st May 2020

Keeping in Touch

Teaching staff are continuing to set work and communicate with the children via Purple Mash and we are trying to ensure that we are in contact with every family at least once a fortnight.

If you need to contact the school, the office is manned every day but sometimes you will need to leave a message on the answerphone as the member of staff maybe on the other line. Emails to the admin address (admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk) are being answered every day.

Some children have sent in photos of what they have been doing at home which we love to see. We will put some of them onto the website if parents / carers include permission when they send them in.

Home Learning

We hope that home learning continues to go well and that you have enough work for your children. Just a reminder, copies of more home learning can be found on the school website under the Online Learning section:

[https://www.st-](https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/online-learning/)

[marysrc.devon.sch.uk/online-learning/](https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/online-learning/).

You need to scroll down to the class lists. If it would be helpful to have copies sent in the post, please let us know.

There are also links to websites that you might find useful on the school website under the online learning section.

If your child is not doing as much learning as you would like, please do not worry. Across the country, there will be children who are taking independent learning seriously and doing amazing work, which teachers can feedback on and then give ideas for taking it further. Some children will be doing what's expected without pushing themselves and some will attempt a few questions, if anything. If you would like help encouraging your child to do some learning, or if you are having issues getting online, please let us know and we will see how we can support you.

Prayer Focus

The link to the online version of the Wednesday word is here:-
www.wednesdayword.org
and simply click on "Schools please click here for the Primary School version"

This Sunday is known as "**Good Shepherd Sunday**" and occurs on the fourth Sunday in the Easter Season. The name comes from the gospel reading for the day, in which Jesus is described as the "Good Shepherd" who lays down his life for his sheep. The word chosen for this week is '**follow.**'

"Dear Lord Jesus

You are the Good Shepherd who knows us by name and guides us through life. Please help us to hear your voice and follow you always.

Amen."

Safeguarding

Child Assault Prevention (CAP UK)

You may remember that the CAP team came into school earlier this academic year to work with staff, pupils and parents. They have produced an activity booklet for children and families to help them through Coronavirus. A copy is being sent with this newsletter and is also available on the website at:

[https://www.st-](https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CAP-support-booklet.pdf)

[marysrc.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CAP-support-booklet.pdf](https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CAP-support-booklet.pdf)

The idea behind the booklet for children is to remind them of the CAP messages, in particular, that they have the right to be "Safe, Strong and Free". They have also included some fun activities in the booklet. The staff at CAP UK hope that you like it and find it useful in helping to continue children's education at home.

Staffing Update

I am pleased to inform you that Miss Haworth will be returning to St Mary's at the end of June following her maternity leave. She will be returning to work part time. In addition, I am pleased to say that Mrs Teeder will be continuing to teach at St Mary's next academic year.

Also, I would like to welcome Mrs Bradford and Miss Hare to the staff of St Mary's. This is somewhat belatedly, due to the school closure, as both ladies joined us just days before the lockdown. They have been taking their turn working in school as we continue to look after a small number of children who are eligible for childcare in school during the current crisis. We are operating a rota of one week in school and one week at home with two separate groups of staff, one for each rota. The children may be pleased to hear that the staff are all having to do a bit of online learning as well whilst they are on their week at home!

Devon Youth Parliament

Devon youth parliament is part of a national network of elected young people age 12-18 who are campaigning on issues that matter to their age group. This year, the national campaign is 'Protect Our Future' and as a group of Devon young people, they recognise how important this is for young people in this area but also across the world.

To kick start their Devon campaign, 'Greener Devon', they have set up an environmental competition for ages 0-18. They would like children to design a logo and /or poster about the environment for our campaign, Greener Devon. The **logo must be circular** so that it can be used on social media.

On the poster they want ideas about how to help the environment and be eco-friendly.

There are 4 age categories, 0-6, 7-11, 12-15 and 16-18.

To submit entries, either email to greenerdevon@gmail.com or use the hashtag #greenerdevoncomp on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.

Please make sure your child includes their name and age.

Taking Care of You!

Communities are becoming more aware of the pressure that families are facing as the lockdown continues. The government is actively encouraging people to seek the support they need to help manage our "new normal" as it is being called.

Here are some ideas for people who can support you and your children.

School Nursing Team

The school nursing team is still working and happy to support parents / carers with specific issues. This is being carried out through telephone calls, video conferencing and community face to face appointments. They can be contacted in a number of different ways:

telephone 0333 234 1901

email rde-tr.SouthernPHNhub@nhs.net

text for health advice / information on 07520 631721

Further information can also be found on this website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health>

Domestic Violence

A few weeks ago, a public campaign was launched for those experiencing domestic abuse. The first phase of the campaign focused on reassuring victims that they are not on their own and that help and support is available. Further information is available from this website:

<https://victimcaredevonandcornwall.org.uk/Latest-campaigns/>

Parent Carer Forum Devon

This is an organised group of parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within Devon Local Authority. Their aim is to make sure that services provided from education, health and care meet the needs of children with SEND by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with the local authority, education settings, health providers and other providers.

Their newsletter can be accessed from <http://eepurl.com/g0L6Mf>.