



## Achievement for All

This week, St Mary's was awarded the "Achievement for All" Mark for the work we have carried out over the past two years with families in the school. Achievement for All is a registered charity, which helps schools, early years settings and colleges to achieve, aspire, ensure access for all and accelerate progress regardless of background, challenge or need.

Many thanks to all of the families who agreed to be part of this project, I hope that you feel you benefitted from the opportunities that arose from this project.

## Photographs

### Tempest Individual Photos

Please can all photograph orders be returned to school no later than this Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. This is also the deadline day for ordering online without incurring postage as photos ordered online by Tuesday can still be returned with the school order.

As mentioned before, all commission goes to FOSMs and therefore to benefit the children.

### Herald Express

We have sent a photograph of our new Reception pupils to the Herald Express for inclusion in their 'First Class' supplement which is due to be published on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

## Christmas orders

Over the past couple of years we have offered families the chance to buy personalised Christmas gifts. Today your child will bring home a copy of their Christmas design which they have completed in school. If you would like to purchase any of the items available, please fill out the order form attached to the design and return the completed page to school by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to ensure delivery in time for Christmas.

## Applying for school places

### Applying for Secondary place

The application window for secondary school places for September 2021 is currently open and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> October. For more information, and to apply, please go to:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamillies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

### Applying for Reception place

The application window for Reception places for September 2021 opens on 15<sup>th</sup> November and runs until 15<sup>th</sup> January. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamillies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

### Applying for Nursery place

We accept applications for those aged three and four years old for our Foundation Stage Unit (Meldon Class) throughout the year. Please see the school website for further details or speak to Miss Slack.

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/early-years/>

## Pupil Premium

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and carers are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support their learning.

From Year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting certain benefits are entitled to free school meals. To find out more details, you can apply through the Devon Citizens Portal. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

## Prayer Focus

The link for this week's Wednesday Word is

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/invitation?pid=MTA101634&v=6.6>.

The word chosen for this week is 'invitation'. We are reminded in this Sunday's Gospel reading (St Matthew Chapter 22, verses 1-10) that God's invitation is to everyone, regardless of our past or present situation, and that God loves each one of us unconditionally. When we put our faith in God and invite him into our lives, he can help us.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

*Please help us to remember that every moment of the day, you are inviting us into your love, to share in your happiness and peace.*

*Amen*

## World Mental Health Day

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day. Mental Health is such an important issue at the moment for everyone, so the Mental Health Foundation is providing free downloads of publications on a range of topics including how to sleep better, tackling anxiety and self-harm. These can be downloaded from their website <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>.

## Sing, Dance, Act!

We have been asked to let families know that Stagecoach are offering singing, dancing and acting classes in Buckfastleigh for children aged four to eighteen years. Further information is available by calling 07795 598493 and on their website:

[www.stagecoach.co.uk/torquay](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/torquay)

and from the leaflet sent out with the email version of this newsletter.

## Congratulations!

Thank you to those who have sent in photographs in this week, celebrating children's achievements out of school.

Congratulations to:

- Archie H for achieving a Yellow Stripe in his Karate grading.
- Eva for being so creative in her home learning task making some amazing clay pots to link with Fernworthy Class' Stone Age curriculum theme this half term.
- Dylan who was presented with his Summer Reading Challenge certificate from the Library Service this week.

## Online Learning for Parents

### Development Language Disorder

#### Wednesday 14th October 1.30-3pm

Devon County Council are running a free event for parents / carers of children who have Development Language Disorders (DLD). DLD affects 7-10% of children, causing them to struggle in their learning of oral language as well as impacting on their literacy development. If you would like to learn more about DLD, and language needs in general, including how to support your child at home and how to access further information, an advisory teacher and a therapist from the Communication and Interaction Team will lead this informal session with an opportunity for questions. If you would like to sign up to the event, please do so by contacting Sue Vanstone via email at: [sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com](mailto:sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com)

### Digital Drop In sessions

Google and Parent Zone are organising some digital drop in sessions via You Tube for parents / carers who want to find out more about the online world – on everything from Cyberbullying to Sharing Carefully.

The sessions are running daily at 4.30-5pm from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Further information and a link to sign up can be accessed at:

[https://parentzone.org.uk/parentsessions?utm\\_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=b6a9ef19c2-](https://parentzone.org.uk/parentsessions?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b6a9ef19c2-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_allat17sept\\_uk\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1ee27d9000-b6a9ef19c2-178763961](https://parentzone.org.uk/parentsessions?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b6a9ef19c2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_allat17sept_uk_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1ee27d9000-b6a9ef19c2-178763961)