



## Keeping in touch

As you will be aware, our teaching staff have been contacting families over the past few weeks, just to keep in touch as our "normal" end of day contact has been curtailed by social distancing at the school gate.

As it will not be possible to hold our Pupil Progress Meetings with parents / carers after half term, teaching staff will once again be ringing families to have a brief chat about progress.

In order to make it a more manageable process, class teachers will have a designated week during which they will contact parents / carers, generally after school.

The dates are as follows:-

w/c 9.11.20 - Avon

w/c 16.11.20 - Burrator

w/c 23.11.20 - Fernworthy

w/c 30.11.20 - Venford

w/c 7.12.20 - Meldon

If there is anything you would like to discuss with your child's teacher in the meantime, please contact the school via the admin email or phone, or speak to Miss Slack at the gate, and the teacher will get in touch with you.

## Drop off and Collection

Thank you to everyone for supporting our arrangements for the start and end of the school day. Please could I remind parents / carers to leave the school car park as soon as they have dropped off their children, to support our efforts with social distancing on the school premises.

## Christmas Orders

Thank you to those who have already returned order forms. Please could you ensure that any additional orders are received by next Friday, 23 October. If you haven't already sent money into school, parents/ carers will then receive notification of the cost of the items after half term.

## Applying for school places

### Applying for Secondary place

If your child is in Year 6, 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/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

### Applying for Reception place

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, 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/educationandfamilies/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-](https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/early-years/)

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## Online Safety - Parentzone

As detailed in last week's newsletter, there have been some additional sessions for parents / carers this week relating to online safety. The drop in sessions which looked at a variety of online safety topics are available to view on the website:

[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)

## Prayer Focus

This week's edition of The Wednesday Word contains readings and reflections for the next three weeks.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=7.7>

This Sunday's Gospel is from St Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 15-22. It reminds us to say "thank you" to God for all the good things in our lives such as our family, friends, our talents, school and those who love us. The word this week is "gratitude".

Our prayer this week is:

*Dear Lord Jesus*

*Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to be always grateful to you and to show our gratitude by loving those around us.*

*Amen.*

## Extra Clothing

As the colder weather is now upon us, please ensure that your child has a jumper and coat in school. Due to the fact that we are keeping the classrooms well-ventilated in line with our COVID risk assessment, children may wish to wear extra layers inside as well. If your child has a fleece or extra layer which they wish to wear in class as well as their school jumper / cardigan, please send this into school with them.

The children will be learning in the woodland area and we will be grateful if any spare wellies can be donated to school. Fernworthy will be doing outdoor education every Wednesday and will need to have their wellies in school for this. We are currently in the process of arranging for parents and carers to have online access to our school uniform supplier, Brigade Clothing. It will soon be possible to purchase uniform direct from the company and orders will be delivered to school every two weeks. This will avoid postage costs for parents and carers. When the new system comes online, which should be within a couple of weeks, parents / carers will also be able to purchase from an optional selection of coats with the school logo on and also general uniform items. We will continue to hold stock of jumpers, cardigans, PE t-shirts, etc., as we do now, in school.

## Mini Vinnies

The St Vincent de Paul Society (The SVP) is an international, Christian, voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing direct, practical assistance to anyone in need. A group has just been started in our local Parish. We are hoping to set up a Mini Vinnies group in school involving pupils from Fernworthy Class (Year 3 and 4).

The model of "Mini Vinnies" was established as a way of encouraging children to "See, Think and Do". The three components involve:

"seeing" – becoming more aware of community and global issues and identifying where there might be opportunities to help;

"thinking" – having the chance to discuss a range of issues including those relating to faith;

"doing" – having the chance to take part in fundraising and community activities.

By connecting beliefs and values with practical activities, the intention is that our faith can become more meaningful and relevant.

If your child would like to be part of the group, please encourage them to speak to Miss Slack about this or they could write a letter if they prefer.

Those who will form the group will then take part in a special assembly and be presented with their certificates before starting work on various projects.

## Sports' Clubs

After half term, our after school clubs, which are being run for specific 'bubbles' to mirror the groupings of children during the school day, will be as follows:-

Coach Ben will offer a multi-sports club in the School Hall for Meldon on a Tuesday and Venford and Avon on a Friday after school until 4.30pm.

If you would like your child to take part in a Sports Club, please email school or send in a note giving permission.

## Congratulations!

Things that would usually be brought into school for "show and tell" cannot be shared in the same way as normal as we are limiting what should be brought into school at the moment. However, we would still love to see or hear about these things, so please feel free to send the information and maybe a photograph to the school email address:

admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk.

Photographs shared already this term include awards from an after school activity and things which link with the class' curriculum topic for the half term.

This week, we have restarted our achievement awards and children in each class have been awarded WOW and BLP certificates. Although, obviously, we are not holding whole school assemblies, we are hoping to hold an achievement assembly in each class next week. This week's winners are:-

### Building Learning Power - All Stars

Meldon - Harrison G

Venford - Braxton

Avon - Bridie

Fernworthy - Poppy

Burrator - Honey-rose



### Witness of the Week

Meldon - Sophia-rose

Venford - Bertie

Avon - Alex

Fernworthy - Isabel

Burrator - Ryan



## School Councillors & Prefects

Although we usually associate the word "vocation" with a choice of job or career, from a Christian perspective, vocation is not simply about what we do but also an expression of who we are. "Be who you are meant to be and you will set the whole world on fire." (*based on the words of St Catherine of Sienna*). Our pupils are always very keen to offer ideas and support to improve the school for those who attend St Mary's, which is an excellent example of how our children show their "vocation". So, I would like to thank all the children who showed an interest in becoming a school councillor this term and I hope that those who are not on the School Council at the moment will get chance to do so in the future.

Congratulations to the following pupils who will be on our School Council for the first half of this academic year:-

- Venford - Jessica, Rainn
- Avon - Matilda, Robun
- Fernworthy - Rumer, Mariska, Toby, Riley W
- Burrator - Honey-rose, Katie, Grayson, Oscar

These children have been presented with a School Councillor badge, which they can wear on their school jumper. I will meet with the children in their different 'bubbles' next week and start to gather ideas about the sort of projects that they would like to work on this coming year. Last year's group of school councillors helped to achieve the Eco Award for St Mary's and their ideas of creating a bird hide, encouraging birds into the school grounds and regularly litter collections all took place during the year.

Congratulations, also, to our Year 6 prefects who have also been asked to carry out specific roles within school this year:-

- Fair Trade Ambassadors - Taylor, Lily
- Tuck Shop - Ryan, Dani
- Librarians - Holly B-D, Esme
- Eco-heroes - Katie, Renais
- Digital Leaders - Leyton, Dylan
- Mental Health Ambassadors - Hollie, Oscar
- Health and Safety - Caoihmin