



## Pupil Progress Meetings

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

Class teachers 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.

## Diary Dates

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October** – Half term starts.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Deadline for Applications for Secondary Places

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Non Pupil Day

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Pupils return

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> to Fri 6<sup>th</sup> November** – Poppy Appeal sales

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Deadline for Samaritan's Purse money donations to school

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need Poster Competition Entry Deadline

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need Non Uniform Day

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Admissions Portal opens for Reception pupils for September 2021

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas lunch – Devon Norse (pupils only)

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – End of Term

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Pupils return

## 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>

## RSE Questionnaire

Thank you to those parents/ carers who have returned replies to the questionnaire about the new RSE curriculum that will be used in school. The responses have been positive and Miss Haworth (PSHE / RSE Subject Leader) and I will monitor how the work in this subject progresses this half term.

## Sports' Clubs

Just a reminder that, after half term, Coach Ben is running 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. As Meldon do not have PE on a Tuesday, please could any Meldonites taking part in the Sports Club come to school in their trainers on a Tuesday. Thank you.

## Safeguarding

### NSPCC – Pants Rule

Some of our children have been reminded of the NSPCC's Talk PANTS in class this week, as part of their PSHE. The materials (which include a song and video) produced by the NSPCC remind children that their bodies belong to them and that they should tell someone who they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Further information about this can be found on the NSPCC's website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

## Prayer Focus

This week's chosen word is "love". This Sunday's Gospel reading comes from St Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 34-40. It reminds us that our love for God is made known by the way in which we treat other people. Sometimes that can be difficult to do, but as St Teresa of Calcutta said (Mother Teresa), "They who are filled with love are filled with God himself."

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=5&v=7.7>

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Help us to love others as we love ourselves.

Please help us see that other people have needs too, and to love you through loving them.

Amen.

## One Million Children...

### ... Praying the Rosary.

This week, our children joined with others around the world to participate in the event "One Million Children Praying the Rosary".

The focus of the prayer campaign is worldwide unity and peace. "In many countries, children in particular are suffering from the effects of war and persecution," according to Father Martin Barta, the Spiritual Assistant of the international pastoral charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International). He believes that the rosary campaign is a good opportunity for children as well to express their solidarity. Further information about this event and the work of the charity can be found on the following website:

<https://acnuk.org/resource/onemillionchildrenprayingtherosary/>

## Mini Vinnies

Thank you to those children who volunteered to be part of the Mini Vinnies group. They have already met and started to gather ideas about what activities they might like to take part in next half term.

## Samaritan's Purse

This year St Mary's will be supporting the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box appeal, but in a slightly different way. Each family will receive a leaflet about the appeal as usual, but instead of bringing the completed shoe box into school, please take it to your nearest drop off point. Details can be found on the website: - <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/find-your-drop-off-location>.

Alternatively, you can make a monetary donation which can be sent into school by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November and Mrs Freeborn, who is working with the charity again this year, will use the donations to make up some boxes on your behalf.

## Poppy Appeal

This year the school will again be selling the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal merchandise. Each 'bubble' will have their own set of items in class, for example, wristbands, pencils and, of course, poppies, available for children to purchase from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. We would ask pupils to take home the items this year and not bring them back into school each day (unless it is a poppy pinned to their jumper). We will circulate a price list as soon as we receive one.

## Children In Need

This year, the BBC's Children in Need appeal takes place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We are inviting pupils to wear their own clothes ('mufti') and to bring a £1 donation into school on the day. This year we are also running a poster competition which children across the school can take part in. We are asking children to design a poster to advertise Children in Need 2020. Entries need to be in school by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, to give chance for the judging to take place and prizes to be given out on Children in Need day. If anyone is taking part in their own fundraising activity for this charity out of school, please let us know so that we can celebrate your child's achievements in the newsletter.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to:-

- Cally who has become a Beaver Scout this week, after making her promise.
- Dylan who has also been busy at his Scout group, where he was taken out to sea in a fast powerboat under the supervision of trained Scout leaders.
- Theo S-G who had a karate grading and gained his Purple Stripe Belt.

This week, the following children in each class have been awarded BLP and WOW certificates:-

### Building Learning Power - All Stars

Meldon – Archie V  
Venford – Jack C  
Avon – Alex  
Fernworthy – Fliss  
Burrator – Hollie P



### Witness of the Week

Meldon – Thomas  
Venford – Rainn  
Avon – Kyree  
Fernworthy – Abi  
Burrator – Ruby



Thank you also to everyone who has been able to send in photos of the children's home learning. We have had lots of smoothie photos, jam sandwiches, clay pots, space pictures and even Stone Age cave drawings and fire lighting. It is great that today's technology means that we can gather such super evidence of the children's home learning.

## Wellbeing Challenge

This week sees the completion of St Mary's "Wellbeing challenge" which has taken place in each class. During this first half term, children have been given time during the week to think about how they are feeling about their new school routines, and anything that is happening outside of school which might be concerning them. They have also taken part in the Abbey "Take 5 Festival" online.

Here are some of their comments about the Festival:-

"I really enjoyed the Mindful Moments especially with the water. It made me feel happy, relaxed and calm."

"I liked the purple tent, the secret mission. We had to be undercover agents and be kind to each other."

"I liked listening to Father Francis. My Dad says he's really nice. I'd like to meet him."

I am very proud of how the children have adapted to our new routines and grateful for the time and efforts of staff in trying to make sure that each child feels settled in school. I would also like to thank our parents / carers for your support in adjusting to these new arrangements this half term.

## Reading Records

This half term the children in Meldon, Venford and Avon have kept their reading records in school to try to minimise the amount of items which have to be taken to and from school each day. However, it has been decided that it would be beneficial to know whether the children have read at home each day and also if there are any messages about the reading that we need to know about in school.

Therefore, after the half term, if your child is in Meldon, Venford or Avon, please could you record if you hear your child read in their reading record and make sure that it comes back into school each day with their reading book.

Children in Fernworthy and Burrator Classes will continue to keep their reading records at school for the time being.