



Pupil Progress Meetings

Miss Teeder will be ringing the families of Meldon Class children from Monday onwards, next week, to have a brief chat about progress. If there is anything you would like to discuss with your child's teacher, please contact the school via the admin email or phone, or speak to Miss Slack at the gate, and your child's teacher will get in touch with you.

Christmas Cards & Gifts

Just a reminder that children can bring Christmas cards into school if they want to send these to their friends / staff. Each 'bubble' has a Christmas postbox which is emptied on a Tuesday and a Friday (to allow cards to be quarantined). Also, at this time of year, some parents / carers kindly send in gifts of food for staff which we share in the staffroom. Unfortunately this year, staff are unable to share food, unless it is individually wrapped and can be quarantined for seventy-two hours, due to our risk assessments relating to COVID 19. Therefore I wanted to let people know in advance, in case anyone was planning to send any food items into school.

End of day arrangements

Thank you to everyone for your help in getting the children safely out of school at the end of the day. To avoid the children having to cross in front of cars that are entering the car park, please could you move towards the gate when you hear your child's name being called in preparation for collecting your child / children.

Flu Immunisation - Link reopened

Just to let you know that, unfortunately, the School Nursing Team did not receive the vaccines for St Mary's in time so were unable to carry out the flu immunisation for children whose parents / carers had signed up online. They have rescheduled for next Thursday (10th December).

However, the good news is that **the link for consent has been re-opened until Tuesday 8th December** for those parents / carers who were unable to access the consent form before but who would like their child to be immunised. The link is:-

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

If you sign up before the link closes again, your child will be immunised at school next Thursday. If not, there will be catch up sessions at local clinics and we will let you know the dates and times when we receive the information.

Please note - **you do not have to re-do your consent form** if you completed it in readiness for this week's session.

Attendance

Although the way in which attendance is monitored in schools by the Local Authority has changed due to the requirement for pupils to self-isolate due to COVID 19, other absences are still being monitored in the same way. I have had a meeting with our new Education Welfare Officer and have discussed pupils whose attendance rate is falling below what is considered 'good attendance' (95%). We have also identified a number of pupils who are categorised as 'persistent absentees' with attendance of less than 90%. Next week, you will be receiving a letter detailing your child's attendance rate this year to date. This will be printed on coloured paper so you can identify it easily.

Safeguarding

'Be Internet Legends' have produced several video clips that can be shared with children to talk about online safety. These can be accessed at: https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/

Prayer Focus

This Sunday is the Second Sunday in Advent and the Gospel reading comes from St Mark, Chapter 1 verses 1-8. It reminds us how John the Baptist told people to prepare for Jesus' coming. The special word chosen for this week is 'hope' as it reminds us that Advent should be a 'hopeful' time where we try to be more positive and look forward to the future, knowing that God is always with us.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/hope?pid=MTA101634&v=12.3>

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for the hope you bring to our lives. Please help us to bring hope to others as we journey through Advent.

Amen

Sports Clubs

We hope to resume the sports clubs with Coach Ben, 3.30-4.30pm, from the start of next term. As the sessions for KS1 were curtailed by the most recent lockdown, we will continue with the clubs for them.

Therefore, Meldon Class will have a club on Tuesdays (starting on Tuesday 5th January) after school and Venford / Avon on Fridays. Please let Mitzi know if your child would like to attend.

Free School Meals

If you think that your child may now be eligible for free school meals due to a recent change in your family's circumstances, please apply online through the Devon Citizen's Portal to check if you are eligible as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed and you will get an instant decision. To ensure that you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period you must apply by Friday 18th December.

Save The Children

Just a reminder that next Friday, 11th December, the school is inviting everyone to come into school wearing a Christmas jumper or 'mufti'. We will be collecting money for Save the Children if you wish to send in a donation.

Foodbank Donations

Thank you to everyone who has sent in Food Bank donations in recent weeks. I shall be contacting Rev Tom Benson to let him know that we have some items for the Food Bank in Buckfastleigh. Also, thank you to the Mini Vinnies for their help with this appeal.

RE Poster Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the RE competition organised by South Dartmoor Community College. The entries will be collected by the College and any winners will be notified after the judging has taken place at South Dartmoor.



Congratulations!



Building Learning Power - All Stars

Meldon – Ava
Venford – Charlie T
Avon – Kyree
Fernworthy – Amélie
Burrator – Esme

Witness of the Week

Meldon – Eric
Venford – Jack C
Avon – Libby
Fernworthy – Olivia
Burrator – Dani