



Pupil Progress Meetings

Miss Keir and Miss Haworth will be ringing the families of Venford Class children from Monday onwards, next week, to have a brief chat about progress. This leaves just Meldon Class whose phone calls will take place during w/c 7.12.20

If there is anything you would like to discuss in the meantime, 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

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). As some children also wanted to bring in small gifts for other children or staff, the same procedure would apply. I hope that this system will enable those people, who want to send cards, to do so, whilst also considering how to do so safely in the light of COVID-19. Our last "collection date" will be Tuesday 15th December.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 2nd December - Order Deadline for Christmas lunch

Thursday 3rd December - Flu Immunisation, Reception to Year 6

Friday 4th December - RE Poster deadline

Friday 4th December - Burrator, St Nick's (Silly Sock) Day (donation)

Friday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas lunch - Devon Norse

Flu Immunisation

The Nursing Team will be attending school this Thursday, 3rd December, to carry out the flu immunisations for those children whose parents have completed the online consent form. The deadline for accessing this is on Monday 30th November via: <https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

Safeguarding

We have spoken to some parents / carers and pupils this week about a variety of online safety issues. The children have also been reminded about online behaviour. The messages we have given are:

- Think about what personal information you are giving to other people online, if sharing videos or chatting to others.

- If you hear anything, or are sent information which upsets you, remember to tell an adult.

- It is important to remember to be respectful to others online, just as you would if they were stood in front of you.

- If you are getting upset or angry, turn the game off, talk to an adult and take time to calm down.

- Setting parental controls on games / devices can be useful in helping to protect children (see <https://www.esrb.org/tools-for-parents/parental-controls/> for more detailed information).

- Making sure that you are close by when your child is playing games online can also really help to prevent problems occurring, for example, moving the Xbox or Playstation out of their bedroom and into a family room. There is lots of information on <https://parentzone.org.uk/home> who also offer virtual 'drop in' parent sessions.

We have also been asked to share urgent concerns about conversations happening on-line on Tik Tok about "Megan is Missing", a movie being discussed on social media and shared on You Tube. Online safety experts have observed children and young people discussing the movie on Tik Tok and then seeking out the link to the film which now has over four million views. The film depicts highly distressing content which could have a lasting negative impact on children and young people, especially those who have experienced child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Prayer Focus

This week, the word chosen is 'Advent' as this week sees the first Sunday of Advent which marks the start of a new year for the Church. The season of Advent is a time of preparing and waiting, looking forward to Jesus coming into the world at Christmas. It is also a time to increase our good deeds. Even small acts of kindness bring more of Christ's light into our world and make us ready to welcome Jesus at any time. The link to the Wednesday Word is: <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/advent?pid=MTA101634&v=11.2>

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Help us to stay awake and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this Advent season.

Amen

There are lots of ways in which we can mark this countdown to Christmas, for example, Advent Calendars or using an Advent Wreath. Our Pupil Chaplains created a short video which explains the symbolism behind the Advent Wreath, which we will share on our website and have also shared with the Plymouth Diocese Youth Ministry.

RE Poster Competition

South Dartmoor Community College are running a poster competition for children in local primary schools. Just a reminder that the closing date is Friday 4th December.

Patchwork Parenting

We have been asked to invite our parents / carers to take part in a short survey to look at the feelings of parents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what the Catholic Children's Society PATCHWORK Parenting could offer in terms of support. To complete the survey, please copy the following link into your web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>.

Save The Children

This year we would like to raise funds for Save the Children by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day, on Friday 11th December and inviting children to bring in a donation. Children can wear 'mufti' to school and / or a Christmas jumper if they have one. There are a number of craft activities on the Save the Children website which you may like to try at home:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/fundraising-pack>

Foodbank Donations

Our Mini Vinnies are still collecting for the local foodbank. Please could donations be sent in to school this week.

Christmas Lunch

An order slip for Christmas lunch is being sent out today. Please complete and return it to school by this Wednesday, 2nd December. Thank you



Congratulations!



Building Learning Power - All Stars

Meldon – Marley
Venford – Clara
Avon – Theo S-G
Fernworthy – Mariska
Burrator – Cherry

Witness of the Week

Meldon – Maisie
Venford – Ngaio
Avon – Cici
Fernworthy – Fliss
Burrator – Ryan