



Return to School

From this Monday, 8th March, we look forward to welcoming all the children back to St Mary's. Details about the re-opening of school to all pupils was sent in a letter to families via email on Monday.

Devon has produced some useful information about the children returning - Back to School - Devon 'Connect Me' via the attached link:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2c3974a>

If you need any uniform, we have supplies in school which can be distributed on Monday and we also have some second hand items, which have been quarantined, so can also be sent home. Please phone the office for further information or to request items. Just a reminder that you can also order online directly from Brigade (<http://www.brigade.uk.com>).

Parenting Course

Please find attached the dates and information for the "Parenting through Primary" course, run by the Catholic Children's Society, which takes place online from March 17th. St Mary's has hosted successful parenting courses run by the Catholic Children's Society in the past, so I am sure this will be equally useful this year.

Red Nose Day



Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/> so this year we will be holding a superhero challenge throughout the week, which is being organised by our sports' coach, Ben. Each class will have the opportunity to take part during the week. On Friday 19th March, children may come to school in non-uniform (mufti) or can dress as a superhero if they wish!

A donation for the charity would also be appreciated (£1 donation).

School Lunch Menu

School lunches, with effect from next week, will be returning to the three week rolling menu that was in place before Christmas. We will be resuming on week 1, which is dated 8th March 2021. The menu, along with the corresponding allergy aware menu, is available on the school website:-

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/parents/lunches/>

British Science Week

Next week is British Science Week, so children will be taking part in a variety of science activities in school - we will share some of the activities that have taken place in next week's newsletter and online on our school website.

Let's Count Day

Next week we are going to ask children to count 'acts of kindness'. The data will then be presented in a variety of forms, according to the age of the pupils, and Mrs Cherrett will then populate data for the whole school. Our Let's Count Day is linked to the National Census which takes place this month, and part of the work we are doing about 'real data' and how it is used across a range of different curriculum subjects.

Safeguarding

Anxiety about returning to school

As we welcome all children back to school, we know that some of them will be anxious about coming back. Now is a good time to remind your child that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else at school. If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or your child's teacher.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help

Prayer Focus

The Wednesday Word is still being produced electronically rather than in paper form. It can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/enthusiasm?pid=MTA101634&v=19.10>

and on our school website:

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/catholic-life/the-wednesday-word/>

This week, the Wednesday Word is 'enthusiasm'. Although it is not always easy (especially at the moment as we live through the COVID 19 pandemic) being enthusiastic is one of life's most important ingredients. The word 'enthusiasm' comes from the Greek word 'entheos' which means 'God-filled'. Enthusiasm is an attractive quality. As we become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives, we become happier and more filled with energy and enthusiasm. God wants us to pray: to ask him to fill us with enthusiasm for the right, good and lasting things in life.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

*Please fill us with enthusiasm to love you,
to serve you,*

and to help others to know you too.

Amen

Max's Big Camp Out

We have been asked by Devon Local Authority, to share some information about Max, a Y6 pupil of Caen Community Primary School. You may be aware that he has been camping out in his back garden for the past (nearly) year and would like to encourage as many children as possible to "join" him on his last night. This has been a charity event to raise money for the North Devon Hospice. Please see the attached information sheet for further information about this.

World Book Day

As some of you will be aware, yesterday was World Book Day and, although a bit different to previous years, the children still spent time talking about books and different authors.

Children in school had chance to decorate a wooden spoon as a famous book character. There were some fantastic results and so I shall put these on the website next week. Those working from home were also invited to carry out the same activity so if you were able to so and would like to share a photograph we would love to see it! There is still time over the weekend to take part and send the photograph in next week. As usual, we have received book tokens which can be used to get a free book. These will be distributed on Monday when all the children return. Although some book shops maybe closed, all major supermarkets, including Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, are participating in the scheme. Further information can be found at www.worldbookday.com



This year we are taking part in the 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge, in association with the charity, Achievement for All. We hope that the 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge will encourage many more children and young people to read, and to read for longer, both at school and at home. The challenge runs from World Book Day, Thursday 4th March, until Children's Book Day, Wednesday 31st March 2021. During which time Achievement for All are inviting schools, settings, families, libraries, community groups, businesses and organisations from across the world to come together to help them to achieve a combined total of 200 Million Minutes. On Monday, your child will receive a bookmark (either stuck into their reading record or on paper) so that they can record how many minutes they read each day during the challenge. A copy of the bookmarks are also attached to this email.

On Friday, please add up the total number of minutes read for that week, so this can be included in our school total. There will be certificates given out each week of the challenge for those children who take part.