



## Return to School

The return to school for all pupils has gone well this week. All the children were very excited to see their friends and very quickly adapted to the COVID measures which are being implemented for the safety of everyone on site.

We are also reminding all adult visitors on the school site about the safety rules that are in place, which are based on current government guidance. These are displayed in the school and on the notice board and a copy is attached. Please read through these so you are aware of expectations when dropping off and collecting children at the start and end of the school day. Thank you.

## Children's Art Competition

We have received the following information from 'Devon Communities' about a Children's Art Exhibition:

*"As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations we want to celebrate not only our past but also our future - and the generations that will look after our beautiful county for the next sixty years and beyond. That's why we're asking children in Devon to create a picture that shows us their favourite part of Devon and why they love it. The winning picture will feature on the cover of our 2021 [LOVE Devon magazine](#), which will be published in May. We want it to be bright, colourful and eye catching, but above all we want it to be a celebration of living in Devon! Overall winner will be featured on the front cover of LOVE Devon magazine 2021. Prizes include: Category winner (4-11) - 2 tickets to Pennywell Farm, runners up prizes include an adult and child pottery experience from Tarka Pottery and a child's workshop prize from Costal Craft."*

Further information available from:

<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/childrens-artwork-competition-why-do-you-love-devon>

## Red Nose Day



Next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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, the 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).

## Music Lessons

Peripatetic lessons started again this week. There are some spaces for piano and individual singing lessons which are open to pupils from any class. Lessons start at £10 for a twenty minute lesson.

If anyone is interested in finding out more information please contact the school office.

## Safeguarding

### Screen addiction

This week, as children get back into school there may be less time for them to be online or playing computer games. We recently received this information from Parent Zone about gaming addiction:

*"For a minority of children, gaming is an addiction. On this week's episode of the Tech Shock podcast*

*([https://plinkhq.com/i/1535431770?to=page&utm\\_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=a2ad192a25-](https://plinkhq.com/i/1535431770?to=page&utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a2ad192a25-)*

*EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_allat17sept\_uk\_COPY\_01 &utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_1ee27d9000-a2ad192a25-178763961* , Vicki and Geraldine talk to Professor Henrietta Bowden-Jones, founder of the NHS's first gaming disorders clinic. They discuss the links between gaming and gambling, and whether gaming might be a gateway to problem gambling. What are the symptoms of gaming disorder?"

## Prayer Focus

The Wednesday Word is still being produced electronically and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/self-giving?pid=MTA101634&v=21.2>

and on our school website: <https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/catholic-life/the-wednesday-word/>

The Wednesday Word this week is 'self-giving'. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about the 'light' that has come into the world. Pope Francis reminds us, "Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness." Letting Jesus' light shine in our lives provides a secure foundation for our lives and for the lives of our children too. This Gospel also reminds us that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. Jesus' great act of love, of self-giving, on the cross, has paved the way for us to share in the true richness of God's love in this life, and also in the life to come.

Our prayer this week is:

*Dear Lord Jesus*

*Thank you for giving your life for us. Thank you too for all the kind people in our community who show us your way of love and self-giving.*

*Amen.*

We all have gifts that we can share with others, putting their needs before our own. At St Mary's we started the week with our Acts of Kindness Day, which was all about looking for ways in which we can all give to others through our actions or words.

## Spare Uniform

If you need any uniform, we have supplies in school and we also have some second hand items (@30p per item, proceeds to FOSMs), 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>).

## After School Sports Clubs

The After School Sports Club will begin again with our Saints SW Coach, Ben, after the Easter holidays. Unfortunately the sessions for Meldon, Venford and Avon were cancelled due to the lockdowns, so these classes will have the opportunity to attend the Clubs when they restart after Easter. Both clubs will be multi-sports - Meldon's club will be on Tuesdays and Venford / Avon's will run on Fridays, for the first half of the summer term. The clubs will focus on a variety of sports and will be on the field if dry and in the hall if wet. Parents / carers will be able to collect the children from the usual gate by the car park. Please let the school office know if your child would like to attend.



## Lateral flow tests

### Lateral flow tests for families of school-age children

As you may already know, school staff are carrying out lateral flow tests for Covid twice a week and have been doing so since the end of January. It is also possible for parents / carers of school-aged children to use lateral flow tests at home as part of the safety measures relating to COVID – further information is available from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>  
Tests can be collected in person from sites in Plymouth or Exeter, or you can order online for home delivery.

## School Lunch Menu

School lunches are following the three week rolling menu that was in place before Christmas. Next week will be week 2, which is dated 15<sup>th</sup> 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/>