



Annual Reports

Next week we shall be sending out the Annual Reports to parents / carers. The layout of these is slightly different this year, reflecting the impact of COVID 19 and lockdown. Although the government cancelled statutory assessments this year, the teaching staff have still made their teacher assessments based on this year's work. As always, in the summer term, following the circulation of the reports, we are offering the opportunity for parents / carers to discuss them with staff. Due to Covid restrictions, these will be in the form of telephone consultations rather than face to face meetings and will be arranged for the final week of term.

As we will, hopefully, be coming out of the restrictions placed upon our daily lives by Covid 19, we will be reviewing our methods of communication with parents / carers. Our normal routines for pupil progress meetings have been interrupted and both staff and parents have identified that, due to the drop off and collection arrangements imposed by the need for social distancing, the quick daily chats have been missed. However, the advances in technology, e.g. virtual meetings via Zoom and Teams being much more available to all, mean that it is a good time to look at home school communication and we will be consulting with parents and carers on this subject in the new academic year.

Safeguarding

Sun Safe School

Thank you to those parents / carers who have returned the Sun Safe letters. The school has now achieved the Sun Safe award and will continue to promote safety in the sun as we move into the summer holidays. If you haven't returned your sun safety letter, please do so as soon as possible. We will carry forward the permissions for sun safety into the Autumn term.

Covid 19 Risk Assessment

Our risk assessment for COVID 19 will remain in place until the end of this academic year. From September it is anticipated that there will not be the need to have the school organised into 'bubbles' as has been the case this year.

Following the latest government guidance, I will update all parents / carers during the Summer holidays so that everyone is informed about our plans before the start of the Autumn term.

However, one change that will remain in place, due to the increased numbers of children and families who now attend St Mary's, is the staggered finish times for the different year groups. Meldon, Venford and Avon will finish at 3.10pm and Fernworthy and Burrator at 3.30pm (along with those children in Meldon, Avon and Venford who have older siblings).

Community Links

St Mary's School has always looked for opportunities to work with the local community and support local events, although this has been curtailed in recent times due to the restrictions of COVID. However, we have managed to secure some funding from the charity "Caritas" to carry out an Intergenerational Project. This involves children working with older people on some joint projects, such as art or gardening, for example. Redmount Residential Home in Buckfastleigh and our Mini Vinnies group at St Mary's are in the process of generating ideas about what sort of activities they may like to work on together next academic year. The Mini Vinnies have been invited to write letters to the residents of Redmount to introduce themselves and to come up with ideas for the project. If your child is one of the Mini Vinnies at St Mary's, please talk to them about their letter, or, if you have any suggestions or would like to help with this project, please let me know.

Prayer Focus

The Wednesday Word can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/listening?pid=MTA101634&v=34.15>

and on our school website.

This week's Gospel comes from St Mark's Gospel and tells the story of how Jesus sent out the disciples to spread the Good News about God. The special word for this week is 'listen'. Listening to someone shows that you really care. We all know people who we will listen and to whom we can turn to, when we need support and guidance.

Sunday is also the feast of St Benedict who introduced a new way of reading the Bible to people in Europe in the 6th century. The Wednesday Word's family time is based on St Benedict's approach to prayer which encourages us to listen, with love, to God and to each other.

St Benedict is a special saint for St Mary's as Buckfast Abbey is home to monks from the Benedictine Community.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for always being willing to listen to us. Please help us to listen, understand and act on your words and to be good listeners to each other too.

Amen

Pupil Chaplaincy Training

Those children in Burrator Class who applied to become Pupil Chaplains will have their first training session next week in Buckfast Abbey (those in Fernworthy will have training in the new term). The children will be creating an action plan of things that they would like to do to improve the spiritual life of the children in the coming months at St Mary's.

Catholic Children's Society

Tuesday 13th July at 2pm

The annual Catholic Children's Society Mass is being held next week in Buckfast Abbey. Some of our children will attend to represent St Mary's. Thank you, in advance, to our choristers who have prepared music for the service and to some of our pupil chaplains who have helped to write some intercessional prayers.

Wear it Wild Day

Thursday 15th July - Non uniform day

Next Thursday, 15th July, we are holding a "Wear it Wild Day" at St Mary's to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. For a suggested donation of £1, the children can wear 'mufti' (non-uniform) or come dressed as an animal.

Thank you to Fernworthy Class for organising this event and for producing the eye-catching posters that have been put up around the school to remind everyone about it.

Stop press!

Non-uniform Day – Last day of term – **Friday 23rd July**

Congratulations!



Well done to the following children:

Building Learning Power

Meldon

Venford

Avon

Fernworthy

Burrator

Sonny

Scarlett

Nevaeh

Rebecca W

Grayson

Witness of the Week

Meldon

Venford

Avon

Fernworthy

Burrator

Maisie

Archie H

Matilda

Abigail

Priya

Invested at Beavers – **Ava Y**
Devon County Show Rosettes – **Becky S**

Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for last week:

26th June – 2nd July 2021

Meldon	96.19%
Venford	91.30%
Avon	97.50%
Fernworthy	97.69%
Burrator	100.0%
Whole school	
This week	96.57%
Year to date	96.34%