



## Welcome to St Mary's!

Firstly, we are very pleased to be able to welcome everyone back to St Mary's and it is lovely to see parents and carers back on site. The children are settling well into our new, (old!) routines and it has been particularly nice to gather together in the hall for two assemblies this week.

We have also been able to welcome visitors during the school day and today we had a whole host of important visitors. Fr Abbot came to show our lovely school to representatives of the Catholic Education Service, along with Sarah Baretto, Diocesan Schools Commissioner for Plymouth. Meanwhile, Miss Slack showed around the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officers of Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust. The children were extremely well-behaved and keen to talk to our visitors who were all very impressed with the school.

## Peripatetic music lessons

We are pleased to inform you that we can continue to offer singing and piano lessons to children at St Mary's having found replacements for Miss Deasy.

If you would like your child to have lessons, please contact Mitzi in the school office (01364 642389 or admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk ) so that we can let the two new peripatetic music teachers know. Our drum teacher, Ryan Carter, also has limited spaces for new pupils.

## Safeguarding

### NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe

A few years ago, St Mary's took part in the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Campaign. We shall be taking part in this again this year during the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September. Please see attached information which gives further information about the programme.

## Free Fruit and Veg Boxes

Devon County Council are offering free boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables this Autumn, to help promote the national Healthy Start scheme - only about 50% of those eligible in Devon are currently receiving these. To help raise awareness of this, the "Get a Healthy Start!" promotion will provide FREE fruit and veg boxes to those who are eligible for Healthy Start within the Devon County Council area. The promotional boxes will contain:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- A booklet containing recipes, information on Healthy Start, and signposting
- Healthy Start vitamins
- Fun 10 minute shake-up games for children
- Breastfeeding support information.

The eligibility criteria are:

- Being pregnant or having at least one child under four

AND receiving any of the following:

- Child Tax Credit (only if your family's annual income is £16,190 or less)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit (which includes the child addition)
- Universal Credit (only if your family's take-home pay is £408 or less per month from employment)

Families will also be eligible if one of the following applies:

- Under 18 and pregnant, even if not claiming any benefits
- Claim income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and are over 10 weeks pregnant
- Receive Working Tax Credit run-on only (received in the 4 weeks immediately after you have stopped working for 16 hours or more per week)

There are a limited number of boxes available so this will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information go to:

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>

## Prayer Focus

For those families who are new to St Mary's, each week we include a short reflection on the Gospel reading for the week. The school also subscribes to a weekly booklet called The Wednesday Word that can be accessed on our website or via the following link:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/jesus?pid=MTA101634&v=36.17>

This booklet includes prayers, activities and reflections that you and your child can complete as a family. Each week there is a special theme identified, using a key word from the Gospel reading: this week the word chosen is "Jesus".

The Gospel reading this week, St Mark 8: 27-35, reminds us that while Jesus was on earth he became many things to different people. He healed, taught and led others. As Christians, we also believe that he is the Son of God. It took time for Jesus' disciples to get to know him, just as it takes time for us to get to know him too.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Please help us to understand and know you, to listen to your words and to follow your way.

Amen

## Clubs & Activities

Extra-curricular clubs will be starting next week and a separate letter is being sent out to parents / carers today with more details.

## Oral Health

At this time of year, we would often have a visit from the community dentist to talk to the children about the importance of looking after their teeth.

Unfortunately, the dentist is unable to visit this year but the children will talk about this at some point during the term as part of their curriculum work.

Further information can also be found on the following website:

<https://www.dentalhealth.org/dentalbuddy>

## School Councillors

Due to the disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, we have decided to keep the same school councillors as those elected last year, for the first half of this academic year. We will be asking Avon and Venford to elect two Year 1 representatives and hope to have our first school council meeting at the end of next week.

## Diocese of Plymouth Youth Rally

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1pm-6.30pm**

The Diocese are running a rally for those aged between 8-16 years at St Rita's in Honiton. To book or for further information please contact Saskia: [youth@prdrtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prdrtr.org.uk) or 01364 645401 or Patrick: 01837 851438 or 07880 734088.

## Congratulations!



Well done to the following children:

### Building Learning Power

Meldon

Venford

Avon

Fernworthy

Burrator

**Aisha**

**Rosie**

**Ted**

**Kyree**

**Suzie**

### Witness of the Week

Meldon

Venford

Avon

Fernworthy

Burrator

**Edward**

**Archie H**

**Harrison G**

**Dexter**

**Honey-rose**

Tae Kwon-do Grading, Green Belt - **Madeleine**

## Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for the week to Thursday:

**6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Meldon	<b>100.0%</b>
Venford	<b>100.0%</b>
Avon	<b>93.75%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>97.22%</b>
Burrator	<b>96.30%</b>
<b>Whole school This week</b>	<b>97.40%</b>