



Reading

We are committed, here at St Mary's, to encouraging a love of reading in our children. For example, we do this by sharing a story in class each day and promoting reading one hundred books by the time children finish Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Your child's class teacher will be able to suggest appropriate books for your child to try. The following link from the Book Trust, contains lots of information about reading with your child:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

As a school, we would like children to send in photos of themselves reading in their favourite place at home. If parents / carers could email these to school (admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk), we will create a display of favourite reading spots in school.

Foodbank Collection

Last year St Mary's had a successful collection of goods for the local Food Bank in Buckfastleigh. I have contacted the Food Bank again this year, and they have asked for donations of the following goods, which are currently in greatest demand:

- gluten & dairy free
- vegan
- vegetarian
- almond, oat & soya milks
- semi-skimmed & full cream UHT milk
- tinned fruit
- snacks, e.g. crisps, biscuits, etc.
- tinned veg, e.g. peas, carrots, sweetcorn
- sponge puddings, jelly, etc.
- soups and
- hot meals, e.g. stews, casseroles, etc.

If you can help with this, please bring goods into school and there will be a collection point in the school entrance (opposite Mitzi's office). I hope that the Mini Vinnies group will again be able to help with this, by publicising, and helping with, the collection of food. Food can be brought into school over the next two weeks until Monday 18th October).

School Car Park

When using the school car park, please ensure that you park your vehicle within the parking bays marked. Concerns have been raised this week about parents / carers parking outside of the parking bays and obstructing the one way system. This can add to the congestion when people are entering or leaving the car park and has caused some problems for other users.

You may also have noticed that there is a yellow barrier fence near the pavement as you enter the car park. This has been temporarily set up to improve visibility for drivers at the point where pedestrians step off the pavement to walk along the pedestrian path on the left hand side of the car park as you enter. With the sun being lower in the sky at this time of the year, there can be some issues with visibility first thing in the morning.

Also, please could parents / carers be mindful of the 10 mile an hour speed limit at all times.

Thank you for your help and support in keeping our car park as safe as possible.

Safeguarding

NSPCC PANTS rule

Although this is something that is well known to many children and adults, it is worth reminding children about the PANTS rule: that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. There are resources and a video to help children to remember this, which can be found at

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

We also talk to the children about this in school and have posters displayed to remind them about this important message.

Prayer Focus

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/openness?pid=MTA101634&v=39.20>

This week's Wednesday's Word is based on Sunday's Gospel, which is from St Mark's Gospel (Chapter 10, verses 2-19). It reminds us that God's kingdom is open to everyone, no matter who we are. Being open to God and his plans for us, brings us closer to God.

How can we be more open to God and to others this week? Perhaps we can pray more, be ready to forgive more and listen to others.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Please help me to be more open to you by being kind and open to the people that I meet each day.

Amen

Apples

There are a number of apples in our orchard (near Meldon Classroom) and, rather than these go to waste, we are inviting parents / carers to collect apples after school if they would like to. After school each day next week, the orchard will be open for people to pick the apples.

Last date for sending photo orders into school - Monday 4th October

Black History Month

This week marks the start of Black History Month. In school, pupils will be looking at famous people throughout history and the impact that they have had on the lives of those around them and even on our lives today. If you have any books or resources that could help with this work, please let your child's teacher know.

FOSM's

Our Friends' Association, the Friends of St Mary's, are hoping to arrange a meeting at The Grange restaurant at the Abbey in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to attend, or become involved with the charity work that FOSMs carry out to support St Mary's, please could you let Mitzi know and with your permission, she will pass your phone number to the committee to add to their Whatsapp group.

Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for last week:

24th – 30th September 2021

Meldon	90.10%
Venford	98.95%
Avon	92.21%
Fernworthy	93.66%
Burrator	97.71%
Whole school This week	94.70%
Year to date	96.32%

Congratulations!

Well done to the following children:

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Evie I	Aubrey
Venford	Ava W	Ava Y
Avon	Adsie-Elaine	Clara
Fernworthy	Marcus	Matilda
Burrator	Isaac	Becky

Diocesan Youth Camp

Ella, Evangeline, Rebecca, Maria, Conrad, Jonathan, Peter and Sebastian attended the Youth Camp last weekend and all won medals. A "Little Warriors" Team, consisting of Ella, Maria and Jonathan, won a special Award for "trying hard to do or achieve something". They had a lovely time, full of fun activities, making new friends and celebrating Mass together in the open air.

