



## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Rebecca, Mariska, Neo and Conrad who made their First Holy Communion in the Abbey Church last Saturday. The choristers also sang beautifully in the service.

Fr Dominic will be organising a date for the next year's First Holy Communion which will take place in June 2022. Pupils in Year 2 and above are able to participate. For those who are interested, further details will be sent out in the new year.

## Pupil Progress Meetings

Thank you to parents / carers who returned responses regarding our consultation about pupil progress meetings. The vast majority of parents / carers, who expressed a preference are in favour of face to face consultations, so letters about these will be sent out next week.

## Foodbank Collection

Just a reminder of the type of goods wanted for the local Food Bank in Buckfastleigh:

- 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 - there is a collection point in the school entrance (opposite Mitzi's office).

Donations can be brought into school until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October).

## Safeguarding

### Hate Crime

St Mary's has signed the "Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime" pledge, in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall police.

By doing so, as a school, we agree to the three key principles of this campaign, which are to:

- promote an equal society to uphold the rights of everyone and work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and unfair treatment
- foster good relations by promoting respect for each other and tackling prejudice
- report any incidents of hate witnessed within our school.

Anyone can perceive a hate crime and the victim does not need to have the protected characteristic that is being attacked. It is the perception that the crime was motivated by prejudice towards a protected characteristic which is key.

A hate incident is where the circumstances don't amount to a crime. Hate incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and sometimes escalate to crimes or tension within a community.

The police can only prosecute offenders when the law is broken, but if incidents are reported, they can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness.

Hate crime reporting methods:

- In an emergency always dial 999
- E-mail: [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk)
- Online: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/reporthc>

## Reading photos

Thank you to those of you who have sent in photos of your child reading in their favourite reading spot. If you haven't done so already, please could you send in your photos so that we can use them to create a big display to promote reading to our children.

## 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/happiness?pid=MTA101634&v=40.3>

This week the Wednesday word is 'happiness'. Knowing that we are loved by God, and responding to that by loving others, leads to happiness. In this Sunday's Gospel (St Mark's Gospel, Chapter 10 verses 17-30) we hear about a wealthy person whose love of money and possessions were preventing him from finding true happiness.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

*May our family be rich in love and filled with the happiness which comes from serving you and others.*

Amen

## Christmas Cards

Your child will be bringing home details about the opportunity to create a Christmas design which can be made into Christmas cards and other Christmas gifts. If you wish to order goods, your child's design and order form needs to be returned to school by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the latest.

## Breakfast Club

Some parents / carers have asked about the possibility of a breakfast club facility at St Mary's. Our breakfast club ceased to be offered a few years ago due to a lack of demand, meaning that it became financially unviable. However, if there is sufficient interest and ongoing demand for a breakfast club, we will consider running this again.

Please could you complete and return the slip being sent out with this letter, if you would be interested in using a breakfast club. Thank you.

## Cafod Non-Uniform Day Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

We would like to invite children to come into school wearing 'muft', something green if possible, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the last day before half term.

This is to raise money for CAFOD, linked to their Harvest appeal which this year has the theme 'Go Green'. World leaders are meeting in Glasgow in November for a crucial meeting about the climate crisis and the future of our planet and communities around the world who are protecting the planet.

We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action, inspiring our pupils to become active global citizens and living out our school mission.



## Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for last week:

**1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Meldon	<b>88.63%</b>
Venford	<b>91.58%</b>
Avon	<b>89.61%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>94.27%</b>
Burrator	<b>95.52%</b>
<b>Whole school This week Year to date</b>	<b>92.35% 95.50%</b>

## Congratulations!



Well done to the following children:

	<b>BLP</b>	<b>WOW</b>
Meldon	<b>Alex O</b>	<b>Rilan</b>
Venford	<b>Kaiyah</b>	<b>Jessica</b>
Avon	<b>Ella</b>	<b>Tobias</b>
Fernworthy	<b>Bridie</b>	<b>Eva</b>
Burrator	<b>Grayson</b>	<b>Riley W</b>