



# NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Poppy Appeal

The school will again be selling poppies and other merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion, ahead of Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November. These will be available to buy from the school office before or after school next week and each day of school until Remembrance Day.

## Operation Christmas Child

We are again collecting shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal, organised by the charity, Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 186 million children in 160 countries have been given a shoe box filled with Christmas gifts. We are grateful to Mrs Freeborn, who will be visiting St Mary's next week to talk to the children about the appeal and the sorts of gifts that are appropriate to include in the shoe box. We have leaflets detailing more about the appeal and suitable items to be included, which will be sent home to each family. Further information can be obtained from their website:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Any shoe box can be used and covered in wrapping paper, although there are also a limited number of new, flat-packed shoe boxes in school which parents / carers can collect from the office. The appeal this year runs until 22<sup>nd</sup> November, so we would need shoe boxes in school by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the latest** so that they can be delivered to a drop off centre.

## Cafod Non-Uniform Day

Just a reminder that, next Friday, children can come to school wearing non uniform, preferably with a "green" theme, in return for a suggested donation of £1 to Cafod for their Harvest appeal, which this year has the theme 'Go Green'.

## Foodbank Collection

Last call for donations to the Foodbank – please could any items be brought into school by this Monday at the latest. Thank you.

## After School Clubs

Next week, we will be sending out a letter about the clubs running after half term. There will be some additional lunchtime clubs, available for Key Stage 2, after half term, as suggested by some of our School Prefects and our School Council. We look forward to some of our children running these clubs each week in school.

## Reading photos

Thank you to those parents / carers who have already sent in photographs of their child reading in their favourite place. If you still wish to send in a photograph, please email it to [admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk) by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, as we are going to create a whole school display in the school library.

We will also be welcoming Carolyn Kennett to St Mary's next week. Carolyn works for Devon Schools' Library Service, and she will be working with our Year 6 Librarians.

## Safeguarding

### Online scares and hoaxes

There are often reports of online scares or challenges which children become aware of through social media or from friends.

The 'ThinkUKnow' website for parents / carers gives further advice about how to talk to a child about scares and challenges and what they should do if their child has seen one online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do/>

## 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/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=41.5>

This week's Gospel comes from St Mark's Gospel (Chapter 10, verses 35-45). It reminds us that being kind, self-giving, thoughtful and helpful are all important qualities. God is great and He led us to be great too. By serving others, Jesus shows us the way to true greatness.

Our prayer this week is:

*Dear Lord God*

*Thank you for all of the great people in our world. Help us to grow in greatness through putting others first.*

*Amen*

## Pupil Progress Meetings

For those families who have returned their letters, the children will be bringing home the appointment slips for the Pupil Progress Meetings which are being held next week. If you haven't done so already, and you would like an appointment to see your child's teacher, please return your booking letter on Monday.

Thank you.

## Jewish Cultural Champion

Each term we focus on a different world religion in school, to help develop children's understanding of other faiths. This half term the children have been studying Judaism. I would like to thank to Ami, from the Devon Development Education, who this week visited St Mary's to talk to pupils about Judaism and Jewish culture. She talked to each class about different festivals, including the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

## Art Competition

In partnership with Google, all children aged 5-11 are invited to create an artwork on the theme of 'Find Your Balance: A day in my digital life', showing how their family balances their online and offline activities to get the most out of both the digital and physical world.

Fifty winners will be selected from across the UK, and their artwork will go on display in the Houses of Parliament in London - ensuring their real-life experiences are at the heart of Westminster. And two lucky national winners - one aged 5-7, and one aged 8-11 - will get their family trip to London paid for. The closing date is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.nsead.org/news/newsroom/parent-zone-and-google-competition/>

## Congratulations!



Well done to the following children:

	<b>BLP</b>	<b>WOW</b>
Meldon	<b>Maisie</b>	<b>Aubrey</b>
Venford	<b>Archie H</b>	<b>Fraser</b>
Avon	<b>Eric</b>	<b>Isla</b>
Fernworthy	<b>Cici</b>	<b>Conrad</b>
Burrator	<b>Sebastian</b>	<b>Amélie</b>

Swimming Award - **Clara**

## Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for last week:

**7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Meldon	<b>95.31%</b>
Venford	<b>96.84%</b>
Avon	<b>93.75%</b>
Fernworthy	<b>98.82%</b>
Burrator	<b>95.56%</b>
<b>Whole school This week Year to date</b>	<b>96.23% 95.62%</b>