



Art Exhibition

We are looking forward to welcoming Tracy Elliot-Reep, local author and photographer, to St Mary's next Wednesday. Tracy will share her experiences as an artist and her personal experience of dealing with dyslexia (further information can be found on her website: <https://www.traceyelliotreep.com>) Following her visit, each pupil will produce their own piece of artwork, using ideas from Tracy's Devon landscape photography. Once completed, we will exhibit the work in Kennick Classroom (our art room) so that parents/ carers can come and look at what the children have produced.

The Art Exhibition will take place during week commencing Monday 29th November. To ensure that the room is not too crowded at any one time, each day a different group of parents will be invited to view the work (before or after school).

- Monday 29th November – Fernworthy
- Tuesday 30th November – Avon / Venford
- Wednesday 1st December – Meldon
- Thursday 2nd December – Burrator

Car Park Safety

Just a reminder to parents / carers that our car park is used as a playground until 3pm during the week, particularly in wet weather when the field is unavailable. The gates will not be opened until 3pm so if you arrive before this time, please could park elsewhere until they are open as we have had reports of cars queuing on the road.

To improve the segregation of pedestrians and vehicles at the end of the school day on the car park, we are trialling the use of barriers. Please could you try and stand within the area between the barriers. This may mean people have to step forward or wait a little longer, but we hope that overall this will be an improvement regarding safety.

Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week commences on Monday 15th November. This year the children will be participating in a range of activities based around the theme of 'One Kind Word' and celebrate the similarities and differences that exist in our school community. To launch the week, St Mary's will take part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 15th November (please see attached flyer for further information).

After School Clubs

Just to confirm that the existing after school clubs will be continuing this half term. Unfortunately they are all full so we will be unable to accept any more children for them. However, there are additional clubs for KS2 (Fernworthy and Burrator). A letter about these clubs has been sent home with the children today.

Safeguarding

The British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA) has produced a report about toy safety.

With Christmas approaching, it is concerning that there are still a number of toys for sale in the UK which are unsafe. The report states that branded toys, and those bought directly from platforms acting as a retailer, were found to be compliant when tested. However, unbranded toys bought from third-party sellers via the online marketplaces were much more problematic. The full report can be read online and the appendix lists the toys which were found to be unsafe: <https://toysafety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BTHA-Online-Marketplace-Report.pdf> . Toys which have been tested for safety should display the CE mark on them.

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/gift?pid=MTA101634&v=42.6>

This week's Wednesday Word is "Gift" and reminds us that God wants us to love and trust Him and share our time, talents and money with others.

When used well, our talents help us to find our purpose in life and to improve the lives of those around us. This Sunday's Gospel (St Mark, Chapter 12, verses 38-44) shows us that even the smallest of good deeds, when done with love, does not go unnoticed by God. It is not the amount we give that is important, but the love which we show when we give of our time, talents or money. Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for the many gifts you have given us. Please help us to be generous and cheerful in all we do for you and for each other.

Amen

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who has brought in shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Appeal. There is still time to bring boxes or items which can then be made up into shoe boxes – **the deadline is Friday 19th November.**

Poppy Appeal

Poppies and other merchandise are still for sale in school until Remembrance Day next Thursday. As in previous years, if any children are members of organisations such as Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies or Scouts and would like to wear that uniform, instead of their school uniform on that day, they will be welcome to do so.

Children in Need

Although a couple of weeks away, Children in Need will take place on Friday 19th November. There are a limited number of Children in Need wristbands which children can purchase from the school office for £1 which will be on sale from Friday 12th November. On Friday 19th November children can come into school in mufti and we ask for a donation to be brought in for Children in Need (suggested donation £1).

Attendance Figures

These are the latest attendance figures:

22nd October – 4th November 2021

Meldon	95.81%
Venford	97.37%
Avon	96.88%
Fernworthy	97.12%
Burrator	97.22%
Whole school	
This week	96.90%
Year to date	95.77%



Well done to the following children:

Congratulations!

Meldon
Venford
Avon
Fernworthy
Burrator

BLP
Oliver B
Sophia-rose
Toby J
Peter
Theo C

WOW
Casey
Charlie B
Rainn
Mariska
Winnie

Bugle Dance Festival Awards –
Most Promising Performer 10 Years and Under
(plus a dozen other medals!)

Libby

Catholic Children's Society
Christmas Card Competition

Winners:-
Evie I, Toby J, Olivia
Runners Up:-
Kaiyah, Rebecca

Bikeability Level 1
Ned, Grace, Tristan, Dexter,
Max, Mariska, Ollie, Theo S-G,
Eva, Evangeline, Peter,
Marcus, Libby, Emmeline,

Foodbank Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Food Bank appeal last term and to our Mini Vinnies who helped with this. We had a good amount of food to pass onto the Food Bank – thank you also to Mr and Mrs Bastyan, who helped transport the food from St Mary's to the Food Bank in Buckfastleigh.

Intergenerational Project

Our next school project involving the pupil 'Mini Vinnies' group is working with Redmount Residential Home in Buckfastleigh. This is part of a yearlong inter-generational project, which involves joint activities being undertaken by the residents and our 'Mini Vinnies' in school. Letters have already been written to residents and the pupils have generated lots of ideas for activities for the next two terms. We are starting to make Christmas decorations to send to Redmount residents and along with cards and an Advent calendar. The residents will also receive craft kits that they can use to make their own decorations. If you would like to be involved or help with this project, please let Miss Slack know.

Bonfire Night Safety

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used (and remember, alcohol and fireworks don't mix!). Children and young people should be supervised, and watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance.

Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and check the time you can legally set off fireworks
- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE or UKCA marks, keep them in a closed box, and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

This is the link to the ROSPA website with fireworks safety advice:

<https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety>

Choristers

Our Choristers now help to lead the music during the 5pm Mass each Thursday in the Abbey Church. Some of our children also perform solos, such as during yesterday's Mass where Amélie, Abi and Madeleine all sang individually. If you are able, please feel free to come along for one of the services.

WWF - Adopt an animal

Last year, the Wear it Wild fundraiser organised by Fernworthy Class raised sufficient money to adopt two animals this year – a tiger and a turtle. Further information confirming the adoptions, plus a fluffy toy of a tiger and a turtle, have been received by the school and this has been shared with the children. The children will receive updates throughout the year about their chosen animals.

