



Christmas Events

This year, the school has timetabled a number of events for Christmas, which we hope parents / carers will be able to attend. To help to limit numbers of people attending, different classes will take the lead for different events. Each event will be ticketed, with a maximum of two tickets available per pupil – further details of ticketing will be given nearer the time.

- **Meldon Class** will be performing a nativity (see separate letter for further details) on Thursday 9th December at 2.15pm and Friday 10th December at 9.45am in the school hall.
- **Venford and Avon classes** will lead Christingle services in the school hall. Venford's Christingle will take place on Monday 6th December at 2.30pm and Avon's Christingle will take place on Wednesday 8th December at 2.30pm.
- **Fernworthy and Burrator classes** will lead a Carol Service in the Abbey Church on Wednesday 15th December at 2.30pm.

Home Learning

Children are set home learning each week in line with the school's Home Learning Policy. What is expected, which varies according to the age and stage of the pupil in school, is detailed in the policy.

(<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/about-us/policies/>).

- **Meldon** - home learning is set via a letter from Mrs Teeder, half termly for Nursery and weekly for Reception.
- **Venford and Avon** – reading, IXL
- **Fernworthy** – reading, IXL and spellings (the latter can be accessed via Ed Shed)
- **Burrator** – weekly activities are set on the Burrator Purple Mash blog every weekend to be completed within the following week. The work set is a manageable amount of work. If your child does not have access to a computer at home, which restricts their access to online learning, please contact the school and a device can be supplied for you to borrow.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week commences this Monday, 15th November. The theme is 'One Kind Word' and we are launching the week with an 'Odd Socks Day'. The children are asked to come to school wearing different socks in return for a donation of £1 to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on their important work.

Children in Need

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 (and a handful of ears for £2.50).

On Friday 19th November, the children can come into school in mufti and we are asking for a donation to be brought in for Children in Need (suggested donation £1).

FOSMs

Just a reminder, if you would like to offer your support to our Friends of St Mary's group, please let the school office know so that you can be added to the FOSMs Whatsapp group. If you have been a member of this before, please check that you are still in it. If not, please let Mrs Chew know so that she can add your details to it again.

Safeguarding

Next week is Anti-Bullying and the NSPCC have produced resources about bullying and cyber bullying, including signs and support for victims of bullying and for those who have bullied others. Further details can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

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/faithfulness?pid=MTA101634&v=43.7>

This week's Gospel comes from St Mark (chapter 13, verses 24-32). The reading reminds us to look beyond the troubles of this world to something far more important. Although the things in this world may change, God's words and love for us will not change. The word chosen for this week is 'faithfulness'. When we grow in faithfulness, others will know that we are reliable, trustworthy and loyal – even in difficult times.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for being our faithful friend.

Please help us to keep growing in faithfulness to you and to one another.

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 next Friday, 19th November.**



Congratulations!

Well done to the following children:

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Zeke	Evie I
Venford	Jonathan	Kaiyah
Avon	Maria	Clara
Fernworthy	Cally	Alex AJ
Burrator	Toby B	Leon

Remembrance Day



Thank you to all the children who came to school dressed in their Beaver, Cub, Brownie or Scout uniforms for Remembrance Day. The children all took part in a Remembrance liturgy which was on that prepared by our Pupil Chaplains. The Abbey Choristers from St Mary's sang at Mass yesterday in the Abbey Church, where there was a beautiful poppy flower arrangement at the entrance to mark the event. This year pupils have, once again, been invited to lay a wreath during the Remembrance Sunday service in Buckfastleigh. If anyone would like to take part in the event, the service begins at 10.45am at St Luke's Church in Buckfastleigh.



Car Park Safety

Please could all parents / carers observe the speed limits in the car park and park **ONLY** in the marked bays. This is for the safety of the children and all users of the car park.

Attendance Figures

These are the latest attendance figures:

5th - 12th November 2021

Meldon		95.00%
Venford		97.89%
Avon		93.75%
Fernworthy		96.54%
Burrator		97.78%
Whole school		
This week		96.36%
Year to date		95.83%