



Christmas Events

Just a reminder that, this year, the school has timetabled a number of events for Christmas, which we hope parents / carers will be able to attend. To help 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 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.

Anti-bullying Week

Last week, our children participated in a variety of activities associated with Anti-bullying Week. Each day they answered a question by putting a token in a pot with their answer, from a choice of four. The tokens were counted at the end of each day and Miss Slack shall be sharing the results with the children in an assembly this week.

Hopefully, the results will help the children to appreciate that we are all different, but do have things in common. This fits in with some of our school mission statement's key words: "respect" and "love unconditionally".

Devon Communities Together

Earlier this year, some of our pupils' were chosen as winners in a competition to paint a picture of their favourite spot in Devon. Devon Communities Together has a Christmas tree in Princesshay's charity Christmas tree festival and the children's winning entries are featured in a selection of sixty baubles that represent people, places and communities in Devon. It is tree number 34, located at one end of Roman Walk, close to the back entrance of the former Debenhams building.

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware, we had a visit from OFSTED on Wednesday last week. Thank you to those of you who took part in the parental survey and for your words of support.

The report will be published in about a month's time, which we will share with parents / carers as soon as it is available.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to Ava Y, who laid the school wreath, and the other children who attended the Remembrance Sunday service in Buckfastleigh.

We will be adding some photographs, kindly sent by Mrs Yeates, to our school website shortly.

Safeguarding

The National Sleep Helpline helps anyone with sleep issues including adults, parents and young people. The helpline is available from 7pm and 9pm, Sunday to Thursday on 03303 530 541.

Poor sleep can affect anyone and it can be a major stress for parents whose own sleep can be impaired by their children's difficulties getting to sleep, staying asleep or staying in their own bed, leading to greater stress.

Having a sleep issue is surprisingly common. At any given time this affects up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis). These problems are typically persistent and do not resolve themselves without interventions. However, if issues are dealt with swiftly, with basic and accessible interventions, they can be prevented from becoming persistent.

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/leader?pid=MTA101634&v=44.8>

The week's Wednesday Word is "leader" from St John's Gospel (Chapter 18, verses 33-37). Sunday was the last week in the Church's liturgical year and the Feast of Christ the King. The reading reminds us that Jesus' kingship is not about political power and wealth but about bringing peace and truth. Jesus stands up for God's values of love, forgiveness and truth.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for leading us in the way of truth - to help God's kingdom of love to grow in our hearts, in our homes and in our schools.

Amen

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who brought in shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Appeal. Mrs Freeborn was able to collect an amazing fifty-one boxes from us on Friday. Well done, everyone!

Foodbank collection

The Rice family are collecting Selection Boxes for the Foodbank at Christmas again this year. If you would like to donate anything to their collection, please bring them into school.

Art Exhibition

Following the visit of Tracy Elliot-Reep, local author and photographer, each pupil has been working on producing their own piece of artwork, using ideas from Tracy's Devon landscape photography. Once completed, the work will be exhibited 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 next 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

We will be asking for a donation for the art exhibition to raise money for countries suffering famine. Due to the impact of climate change and conflict and war, two parts of the world, Madagascar and Afghanistan, are seeing unprecedented levels of food shortage leading to widespread famine.

We would therefore like to donate the money raised to the World Food Programme which works to relieve famine across the world by providing nutritious meals for children and families. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

Attendance Figures

These are the latest attendance figures:

5th - 12th November 2021

Meldon	93.18%
Venford	96.32%
Avon	91.88%
Fernworthy	96.83%
Burrator	97.33%
Whole school This week	95.39%
Year to date	95.78%



Congratulations!

Well done to the following children:

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Harry R-O'R	Adaline
Venford	Bertie	Sonny
Avon	Ella	Felix
Fernworthy	Rebecca	Eva
Burrator	Lolly	Priya