



Christmas Events

Letters have now been sent out to all classes asking parents / carers for ticket numbers for each event. Please could you return the reply slips as soon as possible so that we can plan the seating for each service. Just a reminder of the dates:-

- **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.

Art Exhibition

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 are 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.

Friends of St Mary's

As you will be aware, we are very lucky to have the support of parents and carers who come together to support school by raising funds for those little extras which enhance the learning experiences for our children.

The restrictions due to Covid have severely curtailed any fund-raising over the past eighteen months but now FOSMs are looking to re-group and resume organizing fund-raising events. A letter is being sent out separately today, inviting more families to join the committee and get involved with their efforts. If you can spare even a little time, it will be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Safeguarding

Last weekend, The Football Association and the NSPCC launched 'Play Safe', a national campaign to focus attention on the importance of safeguarding in football. There are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves. One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions:

- Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer?
- If so, do you have their telephone number in your phone, as well as that of the NSPCC?
- Are you aware of the club's safeguarding policies and procedures?
- Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying / not enjoying and why?

More information can be found here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

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/advent?pid=MTA101634&p=2&v=45.9>

This week's Wednesday Word is 'Advent' as this Sunday marks the First Sunday in the Advent season.

Advent is a good time to think about the way in which we live our lives and make any changes we think are necessary. As Pope Francis said, 'Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus, Prince of Peace. It's a time to make peace with ourselves and with our neighbour.'

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Please help us to get ready during Advent to welcome you with joy this Christmas, and when you come again in your glory.

Amen

Foodbank Collection

Just a reminder that 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 before the end of term. Thank you.

SWCCR Online Workshop

We have received the following information from South West's Catholic Charismatic Renewal (SWCCR):

"An invitation for all parents, grandparents, carers, catechists - in fact all those in the church who want to see families grow and thrive in faith! An hour with Rachel Turner (Author of "It takes a Church to raise a Parent")

Rachel consults, speaks at conferences and runs training days for parents and church leaders around the UK and Europe.

She is an excellent teacher and communicator who speaks with both humour and practical experience.

Date: Tuesday 30th November 2021

Time: 20:00 start - 21:00 finish

Register for the Zoom link at:

<https://www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith> (by Monday, 29th Nov at 6pm)"

Christmas Jumper Day

This year, St Mary's will celebrate Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 17th December, to mark the end of term. Please note that this is not the same day as the nationally advertised day.

Children can wear mufti and a Christmas jumper if they have one.

Donations will be sent to Save the Children

(recommended donation of £1).



Attendance Figures

These are the attendance figures for the past week:

19th - 25th November 2021

Meldon	96.36%
Venford	96.84%
Avon	93.75%
Fernworthy	84.11%
Burrator	95.11%
Whole school	
This week	92.87%
Year to date	95.51%



Congratulations!

Well done to the following children:

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Noah	Aubrey
Venford	Harrison M	Sophia B
Avon	Scarlett	Adsie
Fernworthy	Evangeline	Libby
Burrator	Aiden	Sophia T