



Welcome back!

Welcome back to the start of the school year and welcome to the new children and families who have joined us this term.

Covid Updates

We have reviewed our Covid risk assessments, which we have done on an ongoing basis throughout the pandemic, and there are no major changes to be made to our routines at present.

The school receives information from the local authority and the government throughout the week, keeping us informed of any changes as and when they happen and advising us on any action we should take. In our weekly newsletters, we will highlight any updates relating to COVID that we think are useful to know. In the latest update, we had information about booking vaccines, which are available for all adults aged 18 and above. Further information is available from this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Our end of day collection arrangements remain the same, with all children being brought to the car park at the end of the day to meet their parents / carers. However, during the cold and wet winter weather, if for any reason you are unavoidably late picking up your child from school at the end of the day, on either of the first or second pick up times, we may bring the children back down into school to prevent them (and staff) getting too wet or cold.

If you are late for the first collection (i.e. 3.10pm) the children will be brought back up with the second group of children (i.e. 3.30pm). If you are more than ten minutes late for the second collection, we will bring the children down to remain in school until you come to reception to collect them.

Clubs

All clubs will be starting next week and a clubs' permission letter was sent out earlier this week.

Please assume that your child can join the club if you have returned the permission letter. We will inform parents / carers if their child is on the waiting list and so would be unable to attend at this time.

Patchwork Parenting

It has been decided to run this course virtually, rather than face to face in school. Please see attached flyer with additional information about the course which starts this coming week. The first session is 9.00 - 10.30am on Wednesday 13th January.

If you would like to take part please let Mitzi or Miss Slack know so you can be sent the details for the course.

Safeguarding

The NSPCC has created some resources to support parents and carers to bond with their babies. The resource is called "Look, Say, Sing, Play" and is based on brain science. During your child's earliest years, their brain makes one million neural connections every single second. Positive, supportive experiences with parents and other adults are important to their brain development.

However, it's not about just singing or talking at your baby. Brain-building happens when you and your baby are interacting with each other and reacting to what they're doing. You could think of it like a game of tennis – going back and forth between the two of you.

Further information about this can be found on the NSPCC website:

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/look-say-sing-play/

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/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=47.2>

This week's word is "baptism", as this Sunday's Gospel reading is about Jesus' baptism.

At his baptism, the Holy Spirit came down and enabled Jesus to start his great work on earth. How can we become more like Jesus as we begin the new year?

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

You are God's beloved Son. Thank you for the gift of baptism. May we always remember that we too are the beloved children of God.

Amen.

Saturday Morning Music

We have been sent some information from SaMM about music teaching that takes place for children aged 5-18 in term time on a Saturday morning at KEVICC, Totnes. There is an open day on 8th January from 9.30am -12.30pm so parents / carers and children can visit and see how the sessions operate. Please see flyer for additional information about this event.

Feast of the Epiphany



Yesterday was the Feast of the Epiphany, when we remember the Wise Men visiting Jesus and presenting their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Three of our Pupil Chaplains led the whole school liturgy and wrote their own prayers:

Lord, thank you for sending your Son Jesus into this dark world, which he lit up with his love like a candle. Jesus you are a King: caring, thoughtful, loving. We will try to share the gifts that you have given to us with others, just like the Wise Men.

Lord hear us,

ALL: Lord graciously hear us.

We thank you O Lord for teaching us how to love others, just as the Wise Men, Mary and Joseph did. Let us show love to others this week.

Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord graciously hear us.

We cannot give gold, frankincense and myrrh, but we can give the gifts of love and joy at home and at school.

Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord graciously hear us.

Congratulations!



Well done to the following children who were awarded certificates in today's Achievement Assembly:

Meldon
Venford
Avon
Fernworthy
Burrator

BLP
Oliver
Ngaio
Toby J
Emmeline
Priya

WOW
Rilan
Jonathan
Eric
Cally
Olivia



Attendance

These are the most recent attendance figures:

17th Dec 2021 – 6th Jan 2022

Meldon	93.48%
Venford	96.05%
Avon	93.75%
Fernworthy	93.07%
Burrator	95.05%
Whole school	
This week	94.26%
Year to date	94.47%