



Ofsted Report

We were pleased to be able to share our latest Ofsted Report last week with parents / carers. The report confirms that St Mary's continues to be a good school and is now available to view on the school website

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/about-us/inspection-reports/>

and should also be available on the OFSTED website shortly.

Please see below some quotes from the report:

- 'Pupils are proud of their school, and rightly so. They get on well together and enjoy being with their friends.'
- 'Pupils attend school regularly and rarely miss a day.'
- 'All parents and carers who completed Ofsted's survey would recommend the school.'
- 'Leaders have high ambitions for every pupil, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)...This ambitious culture permeates the school.'
- 'Pupils behave well and feel safe. They are adamant that bullying does not occur. Pupils said that if it did occur, they would not stand back and let it happen. They are confident that staff would deal with any bullying.'
- 'The school is calm, and lessons are not disrupted by poor behaviour. Pupils are respectful to one another and to adults.'

The school's next steps include building on the success of our new phonics scheme, by looking at ways of developing reading in Key Stage Two, and continuing to develop our curriculum so that children know more and remember more.

Covid Updates

This week we have received some information from Devon Local Authority about deciding which COVID tests you should take, when you should take them, how often, and what you're meant to do afterwards. This can be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/which-test-do-i-need/>

In school, we continue to implement measures to try and reduce the risk of COVID 19, for example, encouraging good hand hygiene and ensuring good ventilation. The government provide guidance on when schools would need to take further action, if the number of positive cases increases.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

The current thresholds, to determine when this additional action might be required, are:

- five children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a ten-day period
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a ten-day period

The school would contact Public Health England at that point for further advice and we would also inform parents / carers that we had done so.

Safeguarding

Family Lives

The Family Lives charity aims to offer families somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One part of the website talks about building resilience in children and teens.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0808 800 2222.

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/joy?pid=MTA101634&v=48.3>

This week's word is 'joy', which reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings to us, when we put our trust and faith in him. This Sunday's Gospel comes from St John, chapter 2, verses 1-11. It tells us about of the miracles Jesus performed, turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. God wants our lives to be filled with joy too. Joy comes from within us, and we can spread joy to others through our actions and words.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share that joy with all those we meet.

Amen

Reading Books

As part of our focus on reading, all the children have a reading book which they are using both in school and at home. It is very important that the reading books are brought into school each day. Also some reading books have not been returned at all. Please could you check at home and return any books with a St Mary's School stamp in it. Thank you.

Clubs

Thank you to those children who have signed up for clubs this term. The sports club for KS1 has proved very popular again and we currently have a waiting list for joining it. The children on this list will be given priority for signing up for this club next time.

Choristers

Just some advance warning that there will be an opportunity for children in Year 2 and above to find out more about the Choristerships at Buckfast Abbey later in the year.

However, to make an informal inquiry in the first instance, parents of children who attend St Mary's School are encouraged to contact Matthew Searles (Assistant Master of the Music), who is always happy to receive enquiries from parents of potential choristers. He can be contacted by email on msearles@buckfast.org.uk

Patchwork Parenting

Unfortunately, the parenting course did not start this week due to insufficient support. It has been decided to run this course virtually, rather than face to face in school. If this means you would now like to take part, please let the school know.

Congratulations!



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

Meldon
Venford
Avon
Fernworthy
Burrator

BLP
Elowyn
Hazel
Jack C
Matilda
Winnie

WOW
Daisy
Ava Y
Scarlett
Kyree
Olivia



Attendance

These are the attendance figures for the past week:

7th – 13th Jan 2022

Meldon	91.34%
Venford	96.84%
Avon	91.88%
Fernworthy	96.12%
Burrator	90.71%
Whole school	
This week	93.30%
Year to date	94.48%