



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school for the summer term, and welcome to the new families who have joined us for the first time.

Hopefully you will all have enjoyed a restful Easter break and you and the children are ready for the busy term ahead.

Secondhand uniform

Just a reminder that we are always happy to receive donations of uniform, as long as it is clean and in good condition. Spare items of secondhand uniform are available in school on a rail outside the school office and can be purchased for 30p per item. All money collected is passed to FOSMs to go towards their fund-raising for the school.

Be Buckfastleigh

There are a number of Early Years sessions being held locally for parents and their children including baby massage. For further information look at the Be Buckfastleigh website:- www.bebuckfastleigh.co.uk.

A flyer with more information will be sent out electronically with this newsletter.

This week, because of the Bank Holiday, the 10 to 12 noon session on Monday 3rd May (Walkers to 4's) is open to older siblings as well.

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 4th May – Class photos
Monday 9th May – KS2 SATS Week
Monday 30th May – Half Term starts
Tuesday 7th June – Pupils return
Sunday 26th June – First Holy Communion
Monday 4th July – Burrator Activities
Thursday 21st July – Last day of term
Monday 5th September – Term starts

Class photos

On Wednesday next week (4th May), class photographs will be taken. Please could ALL CHILDREN, **including those who would normally have PE**, come in their school uniform on Wednesday.

Safeguarding

What age can a child be left home alone?

The following is the advice on the NSPCC website:-

"Learning to be independent is an important part of growing up. Between work, appointments and other family commitments – every parent will have to leave their child home alone at some point so it's good to have a plan in place. Every child is different so build up their independence at their pace – and check in with them to make sure they feel safe.

Infants and young children aged 0-3 years old should never be left alone – even for 15 minutes while you pop down the road. This applies not just to leaving them home alone but also in your car while you run into the shops.

Children in primary school aged 6-12 are usually too young to walk home from school alone, babysit or cook for themselves without adult supervision. If you need to leave them home, it's worth considering leaving them at a friend's house, with family or finding some suitable childcare.

Keep talking to your child. Whether they're 12 years old or almost 18 years old, there might be reasons that they don't feel safe in the house alone. Just because your child is older doesn't necessarily mean they're ready to look after themselves or know what to do in an emergency. It can help to go over the ground rules and remind them how to stay safe at home.

Remember – you should never leave a child home alone if they don't feel ready, or if you don't feel they're ready. Sometimes it's just better to leave them with someone – particularly if they're nervous or have complex needs."

More information is available:-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/in-the-home/home-alone/>

Prayer Focus

The school 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/lent-easter-card?pid=MTA101634&v=57.15>

This week the chosen word is 'witness'. Sunday's Gospel reading (John 21:1-19) tells the story of how Peter agreed to lead the church and witness to the message of Jesus. In the same way, just as Peter gave witness to what Jesus did and said, through our words and actions we can also be God's witnesses by living our lives the way Jesus told us to.

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus

Help us to be your witnesses by our love so that others will come to know the joy of knowing you.

Amen.

Exeter Chiefs

Back in February, a letter was sent to parents / carers of children in Avon and Burrator about permission for Exeter Chiefs to take photos or videos of the children doing sport. If you haven't done so already, please could you return the slip stating whether or not you give permission for this.

SDCC RE Poster competition

South Dartmoor Community College have invited pupils at St Mary's to enter their RE Poster Competition. The poster could be based on any religion and all completed competition entries will be displayed at South Dartmoor Community College. There will be certificates for all entries, one medal awarded for each school and a trophy will be awarded to the overall winner. If you would like to enter the competition, please bring your entry into school and write your name and age on the back of the poster. The closing date is Friday 27th May so all entries must be in school by then.

Dartington Thrive Festival

Dartington Thrive Festival takes place this coming weekend, 29 April – 2 May. Thrive is going to be a celebration of the joy, sunshine and hope that the start of summer represents, and includes concerts in the Great Hall, craft and music workshops for children and adults, music on the lawn and a shadow puppet theatre (The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark). There's a mix of free and paid events (important to note that people still need to book for free events, though), with workshops for kids to paint birds, make bird boxes, building mini treehouses (perfect for fairies!), try nature beatboxing, a family singing workshop (with a wildbirds theme), the chance to learn about and paint pictures of birds, an introduction to Indian music for older kids and adults, and lots more. Further information is available on the Dartington Trust website: <https://www.dartington.org/whats-on/info/thrive/>



Congratulations!

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

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Zeke	Trace
Venford	Ava Y	Jessica A
Avon	Eric	Clara
Fernworthy	Mariska	Grace
Burrator	Fliss	Cherry



Attendance

The following are the most recent attendance figures:

8th – 28th April 2022

Meldon	94.64%
Venford	93.16%
Avon	95.00%
Fernworthy	95.38%
Burrator	95.71%
Whole school	
This week	94.87%
Year to date	93.84%