



Welcome

Welcome back to school to returning families and those who are new to St Mary's. We hope that you had a good summer and have had a positive start to the new academic year. This year we have a separate nursery class, Tottiford, which is taught by Miss Haworth and Mrs Manley. The additional class will enable us to take more nursery children at St Mary's over the forthcoming year.

Sports Coach

We welcomed Coach Ben back to St Mary's this week - I know many of the staff and pupils were very pleased to see him return to the school! He is working with all of the children across the school and running lunchtime and after school clubs for KS1 and KS2 this half term.

PE Days

Please see listed below the days when the children will be doing PE in school. On these days, the children will need to come into school dressed in their PE kit (apart from children in Tottiford who do not need to wear PE clothes).

- Meldon - Monday, Wednesday
- Venford - Wednesday, Thursday
- Avon - Wednesday, Friday
- Fernworthy - Monday, Tuesday
- Burrator - Tuesday, Friday

Clubs

You will receive a separate letter today about the clubs we are running this half term. Please return the slip as soon as possible if your child wishes to join a club, as numbers are limited.

In response to parents / carers suggestions last term, we will change club membership each half term to enable as many children to participate as possible.

Queen Elizabeth II

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Buckfast, as part of Plymouth CAST, is joining with the rest of the country and the commonwealth to mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. To remember and celebrate her life, and to support our pupils, staff and community with their own emotions at this time, we will be creating a book of remembrance and reflection.

Apples



Once again, our apple trees in the orchard have provided a bumper harvest! If parents / carers would like to collect some apples from the orchard next week after school, please could you let Miss Slack or Mitzi know. Access will be through school, so please go via the office so that we know that you are on the premises and show you how to get to the orchard.

Safeguarding

Within schools, staff work in accordance with the government document called "Keeping Children Safe in Education". This document is updated each year and staff take part in refresher training to ensure they are aware of the most current legislation.

If a staff member has concerns about a child, they must report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). At St Mary's, the DSL is Miss Slack and the Deputy Designated Lead, who is responsible in Miss Slack's absence, is Mitzi. We also have two governors who take the lead on safeguarding, Mr Mark Norman and Miss Deborah Fisher.

The contact details for all the above personnel are displayed prominently throughout the school.

Prayer Focus

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/care?pid=MTA101634&v=67.8>

For parents / carers new to St Mary's this term, each week we invite families to look at a publication called 'The Wednesday Word' which can be accessed from the link above and appears on our school website.

Each week it considers the Gospel reading for Sunday and picks out a key word for that week, based on the message of the Gospel. This week, the word that has been chosen is "CARE".

The Gospel reading (St Luke 15:1-32) reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for all of us. We are all part of God's family and when we show care for others we show care for God too.

This week, think about ways in which people care for us and how we could show that same care to others.

Our prayer this week is:

*Dear Lord Jesus
Thank you for your love and care.
Please help us to care for creation
and to do your work in the world
with a loving and caring heart.
Amen.*



RE Curriculum

At St Mary's, we use a scheme of work for our Religious Education curriculum called 'Come and See' which teachers use to plan and resource their RE lessons.

In response to parents / carers requests last year, for more information on our RE curriculum, a separate letter is being sent out today about the RE units of work being covered this term in each year group.

Curriculum information about other subjects for each class in the school will be sent out next week.

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation runs from 1st September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year.

"Listen to the voice of creation" is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation. The charity, "Caritas", is inviting people to make a pledge during this Season of Creation. It might be something as simple as remembering to turn off a light when leaving the room, walking rather than using the car or putting out food for the birds. You should receive a pledge card and a prayer card today. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/the-diocese/how-we-work/environment/season-of-creation/>

The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. To mark it this year, our children will be sharing a special assembly with other schools from the Diocese, later this month, based on the theme of Creation.

Also, our Mini Vinnies group in school will be working with a local artist to create some artwork based on the theme of 'creation'. The same art workshop will also be taking place in Willow House, a local residential home in South Brent which St Mary's has been working with.

Maisy Milk fundraiser

Just a reminder that we are still running our Maisy Milk Fundraiser to support the work of the charity Aid for the Church in Need. We would like the children to save their change in an empty plastic milk bottle over this half term. There will be badges and certificates awarded to all the children who return a container on or before Friday 21st October.



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Devon Parent Carer Forum

The Parent Carer Forum represents parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Devon. Their aim is to make sure that services provided by education, health and care meet the needs of children with SEND and their families. You can find out more about the forum here:

www.parentcarerforumdevon.org

They are running a coffee morning for parent carers on Tuesday 13th September from 8:45am at Meadowbrook Community Centre, Dartington.

They are looking forward to welcoming anyone who is interested, to go and join them to book a place via Eventbrite here: https://PCFD_Coffee_Morning.eventbrite.co.uk

Buckfastleigh Food Bank

Buckfastleigh Food Bank offer support to local families who may need extra support at this time. Their website is:

<https://buckfastleigh.foodbank.org.uk/> As well as offering food parcels, the Food Bank can also signpost people for help and support with their finances.

School Meals

£2.34 per meal

School meals are free to children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. They are also free to children entitled to benefits related free school meals. For children in Nursery and Years 3 to 6, the meals cost £2.34 per meal. These can be paid for on line or with cash / cheque in school. A letter explaining the online payments is at the end of this letter.

Congratulations!

Each Friday, the school comes together to celebrate the achievements of the children over the past week. "Building Learning Power" (BLP) Certificates are awarded to children who have demonstrated good learning behaviours and "Witness of the Week" (WOW) certificates for demonstrating Gospel values in daily life. We also celebrate achievements outside school that the children want to share with the other children in assembly.

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



Tottiford
Meldon
Venford
Avon
Fernworthy

BLP
Toby T
Ebba
Alfie F
Archie H
Rumer

WOW
Freddie
Mason
Ted
Kaiyah
Rebecca



Other Achievements

Reading Challenge – **Dexter, Ted**
Climbing awards – **Poppy**