



NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL
BUCKFAST

Friday 24th February 2023

Prayer Focus

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-card?pid=MTA101634&v=84.7>

This week's word is LENT. We began the season of Lent in the church this week, which began with Ash Wednesday. This was marked in school with a special liturgy led by our Year 6 pupils. Fr Dominic also distributed ashes, which were created from the palm crosses used in last year's Palm Sunday service. This week's Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11) tells the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness where he went to pray and was tempted. During Lent, we are also invited to reflect on our lives and make better choices. The children have made Lent pledges which they hope to keep during the forty days of Lent which lead up to Easter.



Attendance

This week's whole school attendance: 95%

Year to date: 94.2%

School Library

Thank you to those children and parents/carers who have visited the school library this week to borrow books. Please remember that our library is open for pupils and parents/carers from 8.35-8.55am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The library will also be open at break times on the same days for children to borrow or return a book if they wish to.

There are also **some free books** which were linked to our old phonics scheme and so are not used in school now. These are available to take home from a box in the school entrance foyer – please help yourself!



World Book Day

Just a reminder that World Book Day is next week and will be celebrated at St Mary's on **Friday 3rd March** due to the NEU strike which affects some pupils. We would like to invite all of the children to bring in their favourite book to school, to share with others. Children can come into school dressed in their pyjamas or loungewear (please avoid 'onesies' due to the issues with toileting and children getting too hot during the school day).

WOW Project Competition

Thank you to those people who entered the poster competition for our WOW project.

The overall winner was Rebecca W for Key Stage Two, Evie I for Key Stage 1 and Erin for pre-school. Their posters will be displayed around the school.

Two of our classes, Avon and Fernworthy, had workshops yesterday with Alex Mack which linked to our recycling focus for this year. Our School Council (Eco Warriors) also met with her yesterday and carried out a follow-up waste audit. These results from each room were shared by our School Councillors today in assembly. Overall the children said:

The Eco Warriors are now very impressed with how well everyone is recycling their waste – well done!

The children also created some posters, reminding everyone to only use one paper towel when drying their hands.

FOSMS

Thank you again to everyone who helped to make the school disco such a success at the end of last half term. I know the committee are already planning their next events! There will be a **FOSMs Bingo on Friday 31st March** and the committee would be grateful for any donations of prizes for this event. If you would like to donate any items, please give these to Mrs Walker or Mrs Vallance in the school office.

Just a reminder that FOSMS have organised the next **Rags 4 Riches collection for 13th March 2023**. Please save your unwanted clothes ready for the collection (this time there are no bags, so please just use bin bags – leaflets have been distributed today).



Ukraine – one year on

Today marks one year since the outbreak of war in Ukraine. In school today, one of our students from Ukraine has shared some Ukraine badges with the class and the day has been marked with prayer for everyone affected by the war.

There was also an event in Ashburton yesterday which was attended by some of our school community, to mark the anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine and to reflect on the past year.



A CAFOD prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is for children and young people and their families to access during the school holidays. Funding for these activities is prioritised for school aged children and young people from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for and receiving benefit related free school meals.

There may also be subsidised places for other groups of children.

Further information can be obtained from: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/information-for-parents/>

Strike Day - 2nd March

Just a reminder that next week, **Thursday 2nd March**, Fernworthy and Burrator Classes are both affected by the NEU strike. Those children will be unable to be in school on that day.

Safeguarding

You may remember that before half term we had Safer Internet Day. The theme for this year was 'Together for a better internet'. Childnet have produced some suggested 'online etiquette rules' which may be useful to talk about with your child:

The internet often plays a huge part in many young people's daily activities; allowing them to communicate freely with others and share information with ease via messaging apps, social media and gaming networks.

At any one time they can be navigating a whole host of different apps, with some of the most popular ones being Snapchat, Instagram and WhatsApp. With so much of their lives playing out online, it is important for young people to consider how their online behaviour and choices can have an impact on themselves, and others. Here are 7 top tips to help young people with online etiquette:

- 1. Be respectful*
- 2. Be aware of how your comments might be read*
- 3. Be careful with humour and sarcasm*
- 4. Think about who can see what you have shared*
- 5. Check friend/ group requests before accepting*
- 6. Take time to read any rules of conduct*
- 7. Be forgiving*

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/online-etiquette-or-netiquette-the-dos-and-donts-of-online-communication/>

Congratulations!

Tottiford
Meldon
Venford
Avon
Fernworthy
Burrator

WOW AWARDS

Freddie
Edward
Adaline
Jack
Matilda
Olivia

BLP AWARDS

Isabelle
Jasmine
Thomas
Maria
Rebecca
Isabel

Riley W - commendation certificate for his efforts at Totnes Canoe Club
Libby G - trophies for Exeter Dance Festival