

# NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

BUCKFAST

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Visit to St Mary's

We welcomed visitors to St Mary's today from the charity Stories of Hope and Home which supports refugees and asylum seekers and helps to share their experiences with groups of adults, children in schools and other settings. Pupils from Fernworthy and Burrator Classes heard about some of the challenges that people leaving their own country and settling in a new place may face. Children had prepared questions in advance to ask our visitors which included the following:

*Q: How do you earn money?*

*A: As an asylum seeker we are able to get some money from the government and also charities who fundraise.*

*Q: How is England compared to your home country?*

*A: My home country is very different as in England you have more freedom than in Cameroon.*

*Q: Did you leave pets behind?*

*A: Yes although they weren't personally mine. I looked after a donkey and a goat for a while. One pupil reflected on the experience and said: It made me feel disappointed that they had been in such a bad situation, but they seem to be happier now that they are in the UK.*

Thank you to Plymouth Diocese and Saskia Hogbin, for helping to organise the visit for us. To help people like our visitors today, our Mini Vinnies group are going to organise a fundraising event later this term. A cake sale will take place on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, please send your child in with a donation if they would like to purchase a cake (suggested donation 50p). All donations will go to Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support. The charity are also looking for donations of men's winter clothing and toiletries. If you would like to contribute items to this collection, please send these into school by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**.



## Prayer Focus

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=7&v=89.2>

This week's prayer focus is all about GRATITUDE. Sunday's Gospel reading (St Matthew 22:15-21) reminds us about how we need to remember to say 'thank you' to God for everything that we have – our friends, families and our talents. Who else do we need to show gratitude to and how might we do that – perhaps kind words, a thank you letter, a prayer, gift or by offering help?

*Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to always be grateful to you and to show our gratitude by loving those around us. Amen*

## Behaviour Policy

St Mary's has updated its behaviour policy along with all of the other schools in the Academy Trust. It is based on actively building positive relationships, logical consequences and a restorative approach. At St Mary's we have used the 'rule of three' for a number of years to help children to understand what good behaviour looks like. This is remembered using the three words 'READY, RESPECT, SAFE' which we will be reminding the children about regularly over the coming year. The policy can be accessed on our school website from the following link:

<https://st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/about-us/policies/>

## Lost Property Box

There is now a lost property box at the top of the platform steps near Key Stage One playground. Please can you ensure that your child's clothes are named, so that it makes it easier to find the owner! Any unclaimed, unnamed items will be washed and sold on our sale rail.

## Safeguarding

The NSPCC have created some leaflets (which can be accessed online from the NSPCC website) for parents/carers that may help at home. Topics include positive parenting tips, supporting a baby, deciding when a child might be old enough to walk home alone and keeping your child safe online. All of these and others can be accessed from:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-h-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets>

## Secondary school applications

**The closing date for applications for secondary school place for September 2024 (for current Year 6 pupils) is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.**

A link to the Devon application webpages is: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)  
The easiest way for these families to apply is online by visiting [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)  
If families don't wish to or can't apply online, they can also complete a hard copy application form which can be obtained by calling 0345 155 1019.

## School Council/ Eco Committee

This year St Mary's is hoping to renew its Green Flag Award with the help of the school council/ eco committee. They have already met to begin thinking of an action plan for the coming year and after half term this will be shared with the rest of the school.

## Forthcoming events...

**1<sup>st</sup> November** – All Saints Mass led by Burrator Class in school

**17<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need (mufti suggested donation £1)

**24<sup>th</sup> November** – Cake sale in school for Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support

**28<sup>th</sup> November** - Roadford Class Crib Blessing Service at South Brent Catholic Church 2pm

**Week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Cultural Awareness Week

**29<sup>th</sup> November** - Avon Class Crib Blessing Service at Buckfastleigh Catholic Church 2pm

**30<sup>th</sup> November** - Venford Class Crib Blessing Service at Ashburton Catholic Church 2pm

**5<sup>th</sup> December** – Venford Christmas nativity workshop (Buckfast Abbey)

**6<sup>th</sup> December** – Fernworthy/ Burrator St Nicholas Day (Buckfast Abbey)

**6<sup>th</sup> (2pm) and 7<sup>th</sup> (9.30am) December** - Meldon Class Nativity in school (letter to follow)

**7<sup>th</sup> December** – Avon Class Christmas nativity workshop (Buckfast Abbey)

**8<sup>th</sup> December** – Roadford Class Christmas nativity workshop (Buckfast Abbey)

**13<sup>th</sup> December** – Meldon Christmas nativity workshop (Buckfast Abbey)

**13<sup>th</sup> December** – **FOSMS Christmas Fair** (this will be held after school, further details to follow from FOSMs)

**14<sup>th</sup> December** – Fernworthy and Burrator Class to lead school Carol Service in Buckfast Abbey Church 2.15pm

## Cultural Awareness Week

We will be inviting children to take part in a cultural awareness week from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. During the week there will be visitors talking to the children, and some art and PE themed activities taking place. During the week, we will also be encouraging children to celebrate their own culture and individuality, which will be revisited again during Children's Mental Health week next year. The theme this time is 'My Voice Matters'.

**£1 cash flyer**

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S  
FUNDRAISING FOR  
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

# PRIZE BINGO

**£6 a book**

**18.11.2023**

**SOUTH PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
BUCKFAST, TQ11 0EB.**

Come join us for a fun bingo night to raise funds for St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

**RAFFLE | REFRESHMENTS | CAKE**

Door Open At 7:00pm  
Eyes Down At 7:30pm

**CASH ONLY PLEASE**

**STARTING 24.10.23**

£3.50 Suggested Donation  
CASH ONLY

**Buckfastleigh  
SOCIAL  
SUPERMARKET**

Accessible and affordable groceries for the people of Buckfastleigh and surrounding areas.

**EVERY TUESDAY  
15:30-17:30**

**BUCKFASTLEIGH RANGERS FOOTBALL  
AND SOCIAL CLUB, TQ11 0NL.**

For a suggested donation of £3.50 residents of Buckfastleigh and surrounding areas can access affordable, healthy food and handy household products. We utilise food surplus so the selection available will be different each week. There will also be FREE refreshments available.

No membership fee is required but you will have to complete a form with some basic information.

Please note the only eligibility criteria is location. If you are unsure if we cover your area please contact [rachel@buckfastleigh.co.uk](mailto:rachel@buckfastleigh.co.uk)

You are invited to our first....

## Community Feast

**ASHBURTON TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY  
21st OCTOBER 3:30-6pm**

**OPENS FROM 3:30pm for Apple Pressing  
4pm for Soup & Fresh Bread,  
Apple Cake & Custard,  
Live Music, Activities, Raffle**

**£5 Adult\* / Children FREE**

Dietary Needs Accommodated - just get in touch

**APPLE PRESS  
PRESS YOUR OWN JUICE / BRING YOUR OWN APPLES & BOTTLES.**

We will be pressing juice to share from donated apples on a first come first served basis. BYO empty bottles to benefit!

Text or call for more info or to book / Claire Growing Space Project 07398 004 095

Raising essential funds for

**Moorland Community Caring**  
Making Community Connections

[www.moorlandcommunitycaring.org.uk](http://www.moorlandcommunitycaring.org.uk)

**FREE REFRESHMENTS**

TEIGNBRIDGE CVS Teignbridge .gov.uk Buckfastleigh foodbank

# Free Cost of Living Event

Drop in for advice and information to support you through the winter

**Organisations include:**

- Teignbridge District Council Housing Solutions
- ECOE
- Water Care Team
- Citizens Advice Teignbridge
- Teign Housing
- DCC Early Years & Childcare Services
- DWP
- Lendology
- Moorland Community Care
- Buckfastleigh Foodbank
- Home Maker SW
- Cosmic
- QWELL
- and more...

**free entry + free raffle ticket for each visitor.**  
Prizes include slow-cooker, heated throw, flask and air fryer!

**Thursday 26th October,  
Buckfastleigh St Luke's Church Hall  
9.30 - 12.30**

For any questions or to discuss help with travel please email [anj@teigncvcs.org.uk](mailto:anj@teigncvcs.org.uk) or call 07435 570161

There will be some free transport available from Ashburton at 10.15 to book call Anja on 07435 570161.

## School development priorities

The school creates a School Improvement Plan each year, which is based on key priorities, or 'transformational targets' set by the Academy Trust and then personalised for each of the schools. These are:

1. Ensuring all children make good progress as a result of good teaching and learning.
2. To try and maximise opportunities for children to develop their vocabulary and oracy skills (their ability to explain their thoughts and ideas).
3. Develop children's understanding of all curriculum subjects
4. Maximise attendance and good learning behaviour for all children.
5. Focus on the RE curriculum to ensure that children are making good progress. (This is particularly important this year, as schools in Plymouth Diocese have been asked to teach using the new national Religious Education Directory curriculum materials to children Reception and Year 3. Other year groups will continue with the Come and See Scheme of work, although will also start to use the new curriculum over the next two years.

I hope that the above information is helpful for parents/ carers as these priorities are reflected in the activities carried out in school over the next academic year.

## Attendance

**Whole school last week:** 96.8%

**Whole school to date:** 96.8%

**Class attendance last week:**

Meldon: 100% - WELL DONE!

Venford: 96.4%

Avon: 98.8%

Roadford: 96.7%

Fernworthy: 95.2%

Burrator: 95.2%

## Congratulations!

Meldon

Venford

Avon

Roadford

Fernworthy

Burrator

### WOW

Harry V

River

Elowyn

Logan

Jessica

Lilly

### BLP

Frankie

Frieda

Daisy

Eric

Robun

Dexter

Gymnastic awards/ medals - Maisie