



NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast
Monday 7th October 2024

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WELCOME!

Dear St. Mary's Family,

September has flown by, and what a wonderful start to the school year it's been! Our children have settled in beautifully, and we've had the pleasure of welcoming new families to our nursery and across the school. A very warm welcome to each of you!

With our growing numbers, we've made some necessary changes, and I want to personally thank you for adjusting so smoothly to the new evening pick-up arrangements. These changes have made a significant positive impact. Most importantly, our children are safer, no longer rushing into the car park. They're also enjoying up to 15 extra minutes in their classrooms, giving them more learning time. Plus, they're staying warmer and drier, and we have the chance to greet you, show you a glimpse of your child's classroom, and enjoy those all-important mini conversations with teachers and teaching assistants.

It's been lovely getting to know more of you and offering support where I can. Please remember, all staff are here to listen, and we encourage you to email the office with anything you need to communicate. We'll address it promptly. While we value face-to-face conversations, we understand this isn't always possible. Just to let you know, we have had issues this week with our email system AND our website, and we are in the process of getting this repaired as soon as possible.

The classrooms are looking fantastic, and we'd love for you to pop in and take a tour when you pick up. We aim to foster an open-door atmosphere whenever we can. We've been blessed with many dry, sunny days, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed our field, along with some taking trips to the woodland.

Lastly, don't forget to help yourself to some apples for those crumbles and pies! Feel free to pick some as you pass by, and we'll also gather more from the orchard and leave them in the foyer for you to collect.

Sophie Kerswell- Interim Headteacher



Prayer Focus

A Word from
Pope Francis

"Let's try to be open to God's word, and open to the Lord's surprises when he speaks to us."

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/openness?pid=MTA101634&v=150.3>

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.

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 '**OPENNESS**'.

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shows us that the kingdom of God is open to everybody, to people of all cultures and backgrounds - and that includes you and me too!

Jesus puts forward a child as an example of how to enter God's kingdom. Why a child? Could it be a child's simplicity or dependency - or a child's openness to God?

Wednesday 2nd October 2024

God wants us to accept him and to trust him always to be there for us. God has a great plan for each of our lives, and we can discover what it is when we are open to God.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **OPENNESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough

Mass times:

Saturday:

12:05pm - [St. Mary's Abbey Church, Buckfastleigh](#)

5:00pm - [St. Benedict's Church, Buckfastleigh](#)

Sunday:

9:00am - [St Dunstan Church, Devon](#)

9:00am - [Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfastleigh](#)

9:30am - [St. Benedict's Church, Buckfastleigh](#)

10:30am - [Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Petroc Church, Ashburton](#)

11:00am - [St. Mary's Abbey Church, Buckfastleigh](#)



*But Jesus said,
"Let the little
children come to Me,
and do not forbid them;
for of such is the
kingdom of
heaven."*

Matthew 19:14

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 6th October 2024



People were bringing little children to be with Jesus. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was annoyed and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round the children and gave them his blessing.

*Adapted from Mark 10:2-16
The 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B*

Senior Leadership Team

At St Mary's we have a large team of adults working throughout the school and each week we will explain who is who, and their roles at St. Mary's.

This week, we introduce our Senior Leadership Team. These are Mrs Jessica Hutchinson and Mrs Kayleigh Teeder. Both are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Mrs Hutchinson leads on Key Stage One, along with whole school writing and art and DT across the school. Mrs Teeder is EYFS lead (the early years foundation stage), reading lead for EYFS and Key Stage 1, along with science across the school.

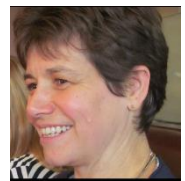
The SLT support with any safeguarding or other leadership decisions in my absence.

As always, the first point of contact for any conversations around your child's education or any social/personal issues is with your child's class teacher.



Mrs Kayleigh Teeder-
Meldon Teacher & SLT

Mrs Jessica Hutchinson
Venford Teacher & SLT



PE Days

Please see listed below the days when our children will be taking part in PE in school. On these days, your child will need to come into school dressed in their PE kit.

- Meldon – Wednesday
- Venford – Tuesday and Friday
- Avon - Tuesday and Friday
- Roadford– Tuesday and Thursday
- Fernworthy – Wednesday and Thursday
- Burrator – Tuesday and Friday



Early Years Funding

The term after your child is three years old, they are entitled to nursery funding of up to 15 hours. However, there are other circumstances where they may be entitled to more hours. The rules around this are rather complicated, so please see the link below which helps to explain this. If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Vallance, our Super School's Senior Administrator or myself and we will do our best to help.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eyscs/for-providers/business-finance-and-funding/early-education-for-2-3-and-4-year-olds/>

School Meals

School meals are free to children in Reception and Year 1 and 2. They are also free to children entitled to benefits related free school meals. For Year 3 to 6 our school meals are **£2.81** a day. These are ordered and paid online through our online payment and communication system -Parent Pay. For more details, speak to Mrs Ania Walker, our wonderful administrator.

School News!

Catholic Life and Mission:

Mini Vinnie Commissioning Service:

We were delighted to welcome our new Mini Vinnies for 2024-2025. They were officially brought into their role with our commissioning service which was held at the beautiful Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Buckfast Abbey on Friday 27th September and was led by Father Francis.

Mini Vinnies follow in the footsteps of Christ and St Vincent de Paul.

Their motto is see, think, do!

The Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need.

The Mini Vinnies get together in primary schools and parishes across England and Wales to live out their mission of see, think, do, supporting their school community and beyond alongside the [SVP](https://svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies). You can find out more here. <https://svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>



Our Pupil Chaplains hit Hollywood!

On Thursday 3rd October, our Pupil Chaplains, supported by some of our older Mini Vinnies were given a taste of the limelight! They were asked to support with the making of a film for the Catholic Youth Minister Federation, who produce online resources for schools and parishes across the country, to celebrate 'World Youth Sunday', which this year is on the 25th of November. Our children explored and engaged with learning and dialogue around the theme of prayer. This was led by Abbot David of Buckfast Abbey and supported by Saskia Hogbin from 'Bless Youth Ministry' in our Plymouth Diocese along with our Chair of Governors, Lesley Clark. The children were exemplary and a real credit to our school. We are sure that they will not forget the experience and we look forward to seeing the final results. Watch this space!

Secondary School Applications now open!

If your child is currently in Year 6, then you will need to apply for a place for their secondary school by the 31st of October 2024. Here is the link to do this.

If you wish to discuss options for secondary schooling, then please email Mrs Ania Walker at admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk and ask to speak to Miss Josephine Keir (Burrator Year 5 & 6) or myself – Mrs Sophie Kerswell and we will do our best to share what we know.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>



Free!

**Talking about:
Potty Training**

**Via
Zoom**

Webinar for parents and carers

Thursday 10th October 7pm - 9pm

ERIC
The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity

Join our FREE online webinar for parents and carers 'Talking about Potty Training'.

Our Family Services Team will outline our evidence based 3 step approach, involving preparation to use the potty, practising potty skills before eventually stopping using nappies as your child gains confidence.

Booking closes at 12pm on Weds 9th October ☐

Find more information and how to book your place via the link BELOW.

Please share this post so that other parents and carers can benefit from this free event.
https://www.facebook.com/ERIC.UK1/photos/join-our-free-online-webinar-for-parents-and-carers-talking-about-potty-training/927997459368336/?_rdr

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 Mrs Kerswell and the Deputy Designated Leads who are responsible in Mrs Kerswell's absence are Mrs Jessica Hutchinson and Mrs Kayleigh Teeder. We also have a governor, Mr Mark Norman, who takes the lead on safeguarding.



The contact details for all the above personnel are displayed prominently throughout the school. Buckfastleigh Food Bank offer help 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.

Congratulations!

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

Well done to the following children who were awarded certificates in today's and last week's Achievement Assembly.

	BLP	WOW
Meldon	Marley; Lavender	Isaac; Oliver
Venford	Harry I; Alfie	April; James
Avon	Archie; Frieda	Evie MC; Hettie;
Roadford	Evie I; Harrison L	Masie; Oliver
Fernworthy	Archie H; Felix	Jess; Poppy
Burrator	Ned; Cici	Ngaio; Inigo



Other Achievements:

Time Tables Star: **Ted, Rilan, Oliver and Olivia RJ**

Netball Certificate: **Katie**

Netball Trophy: **Erin**

Football Trophy: **Casey**

Swimming: **Ava W**