



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast

Monday 28th April 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers, and St. Mary's Community,

Firstly, welcome back to a new term, and especially to our two new families that have joined us. We hope you enjoyed a restful time with family and friends and had a happy Easter.

The news of Pope Francis' death, shared with the world on Easter Monday, brought to mind two of the key messages he championed: *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* — care for our world and care for each other. These themes are woven throughout our curriculum and lived daily in our school ethos. After all, what else is there, if we do not care for the world we live in and the people around us?

Every day, I witness small but powerful acts of kindness in our school community — such as a parent stooping to pick up litter on the hill, or a child offering to give up their own playtime to sit with another who is unwell. It is these small acts of thoughtfulness that make a real difference. How do we change the world? It starts with ourselves.

In the words of Pope Francis:

"A little bit of kindness can make the world a better place."

We cannot change others, but we can change ourselves —
and from there, the ripple effect begins.

What small thing can you do today to make a difference to our world
and to someone else's life?

As we begin this new term, may we carry forward Pope Francis' legacy by living lives of compassion, stewardship, and hope — and by remembering his simple but powerful call:

"We are all brothers and sisters. Let's take care of each other."

Wishing you all a joyful and hope-filled start to the new term.

With every blessing,
Mrs Sophie Kerswell

Headteacher – St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast

Prayer Focus



For parents/carers new to St Mary's this term, each week we invite families to explore a publication called 'The Wednesday Word' - accessed from the above link.

Each week, it considers the Gospel reading for Sunday and picks out a word for the week based on the message from the Gospel.

This week, the word that has been chosen is 'BELIEVE'. <https://www.paperturn-view.com/half-term-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=7&v=172.6>

Additionally, you can enjoy the new song composed by Axford and Mac Robinson – father of Jonathan. It is a song to celebrate Easter and the story of the risen Christ. Enjoy!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaiFGQlwP40>

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Enjoy reading the Gospel

The disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" and he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there when Jesus came and he refused to believe what had happened. One week later, they were in the room again, and Thomas was also there. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe!"



This week, we are blessed with beautiful sunshine!

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their 'sun-safety' forms. If you have not yet done so, please return any outstanding forms as soon as possible.

A reminder that any sunscreen or/and hats brought into school must be clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Thank you for your support.

Enjoying Our School Field

It has been a real joy to see our children and families spending time together on the field at the end of the day — especially with this glorious sunshine!

If you choose to stay and play after school, please could we kindly ask that children are closely supervised, and that our usual high standards of behaviour are upheld, so that everyone can enjoy the space safely.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, when our Sports After-School Clubs are running, there may be times when our coaches need to use the field. On these days, we kindly ask families not to stay on the field after pick-up. This helps us meet our safeguarding responsibilities and allows our coaches to close and lock the top gate safely before beginning the club session.

Thank you for helping us look after each other and our beautiful school environment — living out Pope Francis' messages of *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*: caring for our world and caring for each other. 🌱😊

Congratulations to Mrs Hutchinson

Congratulations to Jessica Hutchinson on successfully completing her Senior Mental Health Lead training award!



Mrs Hutchinson is our school's Mental Health Lead and will continue to champion our holistic approach to supporting the wellbeing of our whole school community — so that together, we can best care for our children. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and grateful for her ongoing dedication to the emotional wellbeing of everyone at St Mary's.

Superlocrian Visit

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome the professional band *Superlocrian* to St Mary's.

Our children were captivated by their fun, interactive, and engaging rhythms!

Superlocrian is one of the UK's finest new chamber jazz ensembles. Led by highly regarded composer Sam Massey, this six- to seven-piece wind group features some of the country's leading jazz soloists, orchestral players, and world-class session musicians.

At St Mary's, we truly value the wider curriculum and understand the importance of these enriching experiences for our children. It was wonderful to see the joy on the children's faces during the performance — a reminder that music is a powerful creative outlet, and can play a vital role in supporting our mental health, wellbeing, and happiness.

We are proud that as many as 18 of our Key Stage 2 children are already learning brass instruments in school, and hope that events like this inspire even more children to explore their musical talents!

A heartfelt thank you to *Superlocrian*, to Tom Deam from Devon Music, and to Kerry Manley for organising such a wonderful experience for our children. Find out more about Superlocrian here: <https://superlocrian.co.uk/>



Lost Property Reminder

If every child has two jumpers or cardigans, we are managing over 340 items! Each day, we find 5 or 6 left behind — often unnamed, or with names that have faded over time.

Please can we all make a joint effort to check any items that may be taken off during the day — especially coats, hats, and jumpers/cardigans — and ensure your child's name is clearly visible and easy to read.

If jumpers are found unnamed, they will first go into lost property for one week. If they are not collected, they will then be washed and added to our second-hand clothing rail.

To help, a blue or black biro or Sharpie works well for quick labelling, or even better, an iron-on name label.

Thank you for your support with this!



Safeguarding



Operation Encompass. We are an Operation Encompass School.

For more information click on the link: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

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 have a specific email address for any safeguarding concerns:

safeguarding.stmarys.buckfast@plymouthcast.com

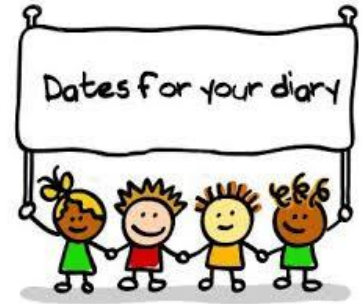
If you are concerned that a child has experience, or is at risk of, harm, you can make a referral yourself to MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) through the link below, by calling 0345 155 1071 or by emailing mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

Sport's Days:

Key Stage 2 - Tuesday 1st July 9:30-11:30am

Key Stage 1 - Wednesday 2nd July 9:30-11:30am

EYFS - Wednesday 2nd July 1:30-3pm



These are the 'back up Sport's Days' if the weather is too wet on the 1st and/or 2nd July.

Back up A Day: Tuesday 8th July & Wednesday 9th July

Back up B Day: Tuesday 15th July & Wednesday 16th July

Masses and other religious events:

A Celebration of the Feast of 'Our Lady of Buckfast' (Mary):

Friday 23rd May – various activities and events all day. Details to follow.

Pentecost Mass:

Thursday 19th June. 9:30-10:30am. Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Y6 Leaver's Mass and Assembly –

Wednesday 23rd July 9:30am. Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Theatre Visit:

Jungle Book- Wednesday 4th June pm. Whole School- in our school hall.

Swimming:

Burrator and Fernworthy- Commences Friday 6th June pm.

A separate letter will follow in due course.

Summer Fayre:

Saturday 21st June- Our School Field – walk if you can, to save on car-parking space! Help needed too – however great or small! Please contact FOSM's (Friends of St. Mary's on chair@fosms.onmicrosoft.com). Thank you! 😊

Term Dates: (see our website for more details)

https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/web/term_dates_and_times_of_our_school_day/687198

INSET DAY MONDAY 2ND JUNE – SO NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL TODAY.

Last day of the Summer Term – Wednesday 23rd July

First day of the Autumn Term- Wednesday 3rd September (Tuesday 2nd September is an INSET/Non-pupil day – In Service Training Day).