



NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Buckfast

Monday 23rd September 2024

WELCOME!

Dear St. Mary's Family,

I would like to begin by warmly welcoming you all back to a new academic year at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School. A special welcome goes to those who are joining our community for the first time – we are thrilled to have you as part of our St. Mary's family. I hope you enjoyed a restful summer break and that the school year is off to a positive start for you and your children.

I'm also delighted to introduce two new members of our staff: Mrs. Donna Waiters, who will be working part-time in Meldon and Fernworthy, and Mrs. Sam Ewart, who joins our talented team of Teaching Assistants. We are so fortunate to have them both on board.

It is with great pride and honour that I step into the role of interim headteacher at St. Mary's, a school that has always been close to my heart. My connection to St. Mary's goes back to 1985, when my mother, Mrs. Jenny Knibb, joined as a teacher and later deputy headteacher. Her years here were filled with fond memories, and it is this sense of community and love for the school that has inspired my own journey.

In April 1998, during my third term of teaching, I joined St. Mary's myself. Over the years, I've had the privilege of teaching every year group, from Reception through to Year 6, several times over! When asked which year group I love the most, my answer is always the same – I simply cannot choose. Every year has brought its own joy, and I cherish the many wonderful memories.

For over 17 years, I have served on the Senior Leadership Team, working closely with my fantastic colleague, Mrs. Jessica Hutchinson. As I embark on my 28th year in education, it is an absolute honour to begin this chapter as your interim headteacher. My deep connection with the school and long-standing relationships with our families will help me support our children and community as we move forward together.

I have lived in the Buckfast area for nearly my entire life, apart from my time at university, and I am proud to call this community home. While there is always more to learn about the operational aspects of running a school, I am incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by an outstanding team. The experience, passion, and dedication of every staff member at St. Mary's are unmatched, and it is through our shared commitment that we will continue to nurture and guide your children to be the best they can be.

I look forward to serving you.

Sophie Kerswell- Interim Headteacher

Classes

A reminder of our class structure for this year.

Meldon: Nursery and Reception with Mrs Kayleigh Teeder, and Mrs Donna Waiters supporting through the week.

Venford: Year 1 with Mrs Jessica Hutchinson

Avon: Year 2 with Miss Rebecca Blackhall

Roadford: Year 3 with Mrs Kerry Manley

Fernworthy: Year 4 and Year 5 with Mrs Coralie Cherrett and Mrs Donna Waiters on Wednesday morning.

Burrator: Year 5 and Year 6 with Miss Josephine Keir.

More details about staff and their roles at St. Mary's to follow soon.

Sports Coaches

Coach George joins us for 2024-2025 and he is joined by Coach Ryan. Our coaches are working with all of our children across the school and running lunchtime and after school clubs for KS1 and KS2 this half term. More information on Parent Pay.

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



Cooking Apples

Once again, our apple trees in the orchard have provided a bumper harvest! Logan, our wonderful caretaker will be gathering them up and leaving a box in the school foyer with bags for our families to collect.



Prayer Focus

A Word from
Pope Francis

"Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

<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.

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 '**SERVING**'.

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus once again reminds the disciples - and us too - that a life of service is the best life to live. Life can be so busy, full of the things we really like doing, that it's quite easy to forget about serving others.

The Church teaches that we grow in the love of God through serving each other. One of the oldest titles for the Pope is 'The Servant of the servants of God'.

This emphasises the importance which the Church places on service. Jesus lived a life of service. Family and school life become more joyful when we follow Jesus' example and live as God intends.

So enjoy your week together - bring peace and joy into your home and community through **SERVING** each other.

Dom Henry Wansbrough

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Pope Francis

"Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

The Gospel reading (St Mark 9:3-37)

Serving is part of our everyday life, particularly family life. It is **servicing** others which makes people truly great, deeply loved and warmly remembered.

The happiest people on earth are actually those who **serve** others!

Our prayer this week is:

Dear Lord Jesus,

You **SERVED** others, please help me to follow your example so that my home, my school and my community may be filled with your love.

Amen.

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.



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	Jenson; Lavender	Evie; Blake
Venford	Larkspur; April	Harry V; Katie
Avon	Noah; Jasmine	Freya; Ebba
Roadford	Lupin; Reuben	Adeline; Evie
Fernworthy	Sophia ;Kaiyah	Charlie; Alfie
Burrator	Charlie; Alex	Bridie; Ava



Times Tables Stars: **Cally, Bridie**

Summer Reading Challenge: **Matilda, Hugo, Freddie, Evie MC, Ebba**

Other Achievements: Reading Challenge – **Hettie** Red Stripe Karate award – **Ted**
 Dance Trophy – **Ava W** Dorothy Fox Cup – **April** M. Gruitt Cup – **April & Reeva**
 Netball and 1 Mile Fun Run Medals - **Katie**