



St. Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School

Devon County Council. Children and Young People's Services

Acting Headteacher: Adrian Scarrett BEd (Hons)

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Dear Parents

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who helped by donating and/or packing the shoeboxes for this year's appeal. We packed a school record 217 shoeboxes for the organisation Operation Christmas Child. The box contents include toiletries, stationery, toys, hats, scarves, gloves and sweets. They will be sent, by the charity, to children all over the world who are victims of war, poverty and natural disasters. Children bought things using their own pocket money and sorted through their toy boxes for things to donate. Their contributions were added to by donations from local shops, companies and neighbours of the school. The boxes were then wrapped and labeled ready for distribution in time for Christmas.



Church Service

St Mary's Church will be holding a Bible Exhibition from this Sunday, for a week. This is to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the King James' version of the Bible. **The whole school will be having a Bible-centred Act of Worship at church next Thursday (24th November).** All children will need to meet their class teacher at St Mary's Church at 8:55am. They will then walk back to school after the service. You are very welcome to stay for the assembly and if you are able to assist your class with walking back to school then please speak to your child's teacher.

Clothing

Spare Clothes

If your child has been provided with spare clothes from school, due to accidents or spillages throughout the day, would you please be kind enough to wash and return them as soon as possible, as we are getting very short in our supplies.

Second Hand Uniform

We are very grateful to Karen Coles for committing time to selling good quality second hand This can be purchased from the foyer on the first Thursday of each month.

PE Kit

It is important, for hygiene and safety reasons, that your child has appropriate clothing for PE in school. Although PE times are set it may be that they require their kit in at other times so it is advisable that it is brought in on a Monday morning and taken home at the weekend. I would like to remind you that **uniform PE kit is royal blue or dark shorts, white polo shirt and plimsols or trainers**. During the winter months it is also advisable to have **jogging bottoms** for outdoor PE. These should be **well fitted (not baggy or too long)** to ensure that the child can carry out any activity safely.

Lost Property

Please would you ensure that **ALL of your child's clothing is clearly labelled**. Our Lost Property box is filled to overflowing again with items that have no name. If your child's clothing is labelled, it will usually be returned to his/her class. Otherwise the **lost property can be found in the area outside the library**.

Charity

Each term we, as a school, commit to collecting money for a main charity. One third of the money from ticket sales for our Christmas Productions go to each of the year's charities and the children also organise and run their own small competitions to raise money for these. Additionally, we ask the children if they could possibly spare around ten pence each week to add to their class collection towards our nominated charity. **I feel that this is a good way for the children to feel that they are able to help others and have a real sense of community spirit** and makes them very aware of how fortunate they are. **Our nominated charity for this term is Help for Heroes**. **Any support that you and your children can give to this will be gratefully received**.

Illness

There are a number of illnesses 'doing the rounds' at school currently. We would **suggest that you reiterate the conversations that we have been having with your child about hygiene, particularly with regard to sneezing, coughing and hand washing**. Through our daily cleaning procedures we are trying our best to combat this and will be using antibacterial gel in the classrooms to try to stop the spread of this further. If you have any concerns about the use of the gel please talk to your child's class teacher.

Community Lunch

On 30th November we are holding a community lunch for our retired neighbours. If any children have **grandparents who would like to attend then would you please register** at the office. The lunch will commence at 1:00pm and be followed by a short concert by our choir. **The cost for an adult lunch is £4.20 and a menu is available from reception**.

Parents and Friends of St Mary's

Finally, a reminder that the **PFSM have a meeting, at the school this evening (7pm)**. You are all welcome to attend to help the committed group formulate ideas for their forthcoming events. The PFSM also have a **family bingo night in the school hall this Saturday (19th)**. Eyes down at 6:30pm

Thank you to all those who supported Children in Need today. A fantastic effort!

Many thanks for you continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Scarrett
Acting Headteacher

