



ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

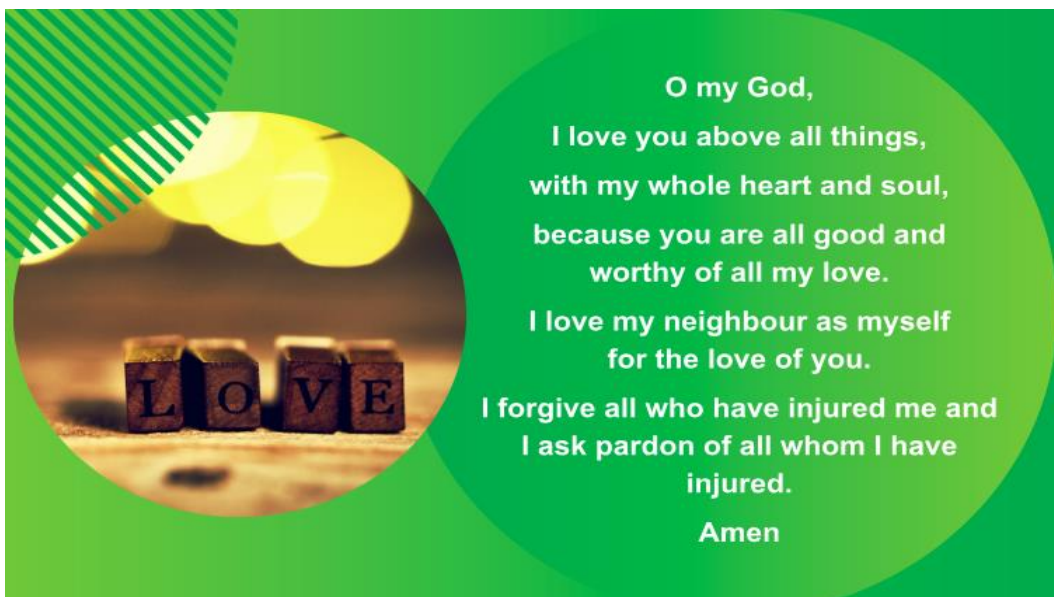
ASSISTANT HEAD - MISS AMANDA LYONS

Email: office.stbenets@cpswv.org Phone: 01502 712012

Website: www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk

28th February 2025

Sometimes how we feel on the inside can show on the outside and through how we treat others. Our assembly explored how the way we act plays a part in bringing down or blessing others and inspires children to love our enemies as Jesus told us to.



“Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great....”

Luke 6:35 *Children will understand that:*

- *Growing love in our hearts flows from the inside out.*
- *All of our feelings matter and Jesus cares about how we feel.*
- *We can always make a choice to bless others, even when it's hard.*

Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely half term break. There is lots to look forward to this half term as we enter the season of Lent next week. The children will be attending Mass on Ash Wednesday and will be learning all about this in their classes.

As mentioned before, as part of our charitable focus this Lent we will be doing the Big Lent walk. Whilst this says we will do 200km in 40 days on the poster, we will instead do a sponsored walk over one afternoon. We will aim to walk 2 miles, this should take about 45 minutes at a moderate pace. At both schools this will be around the school grounds.

The links to donation will be sent out via email on the day of 21st March. We hope you can support us in reaching our target of £200 at both schools.

We will have a visitor from CAFOD coming into school soon to talk to the children about solidarity for the poor and why it is important we consider the needs of others before ourselves, especially during Lent.

Our annual Prayer Station Day will be happening in both schools on 3rd April, as always the children will design and create these and you will be invited in to take time to visit each one and share your prayer time with them.

Finally, please ensure you have booked in for parent/teacher meetings which will be held on 17th and 18th March. The booking sheets are in the offices. Each slot will be 10 minutes and the teachers will share with you current assessment information to explain where against age related expectations your child is and their targets. You will also have a chance to look in book at this session.

Any longer meeting you require please ensure this is made as a separate appointment.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Barlow

World Book Day - 6th March

For World Book Day this year our theme is 'bedtime stories'. Children can come in their cosy onesies, pyjamas and/or Oodies. Bring their favourite book to share and be ready for some relaxing story times throughout the day. We hope the day will continue to inspire a love of reading for all of us.

If it is your child's forest school day, they will need to bring their World Book Day clothes in a bag to change into after their session.

Best wishes
Mrs Barlow

Attendance Matters

Why is good school attendance important?

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential to supporting a child or young person to flourish, fulfil their potential and enables them to:

- learn
- make and manage friendships
- develop new skills
- have fun
- experience new things in the world around them
- develop awareness and respect of other cultures, religion, ethnicity, and gender differences
- build confidence and self-esteem
- achieve and thrive with a sense of belonging to their school community
- prioritise their well-being and happiness
- be given the best start in life, enabling the best possible choices in their future

Missing school... missing out!

Don't let your child be the one to miss out!

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent number of missed:		
	Days	Weeks	Average lessons
95%	9	2	54
90%	19	4	114
85%	29	6	174
80%	38	8	228
75%	48	10	288
70%	57	11.5	342
65%	67	13.5	402

"We are only a few minutes late" - Does it matter?

Being late for school reduces learning time and does not prepare your child or young person for their future working lives.

- Arrival 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning missed each year
- Arrival 15 minutes late every day = 10 days or 2 weeks of learning each year.

How you can help your child or young person to have excellent attendance in school

- Always inform the school if your child is absent.
- Talk openly to your child about school and work in partnership with the school to best support them.
- Encourage your child to attend regularly and advocate, speak up on behalf of their needs.
- Arrange medical or dental appointments outside of school hours when possible.
- Establish good morning and bedtime routines.
- Support your child to arrive at school on time.
- Take truancy seriously - consider where are they? Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Where possible attend parent consultations and school events.
- Value and acknowledge achievements in school.
- Take family holidays, visit family outside of term time.

Young people regularly missing school without good reason = increased risk of becoming isolated from their friends, underachieving in their learning and/or have vulnerability to become involved in anti-social behaviour.

A good diet and sleep routine adds to successful learning.

Every minute in school counts!

Helping your child to arrive at school on time, wearing correct uniform gives them a positive start to their day.

Regular school attendance teaches a young person life skills like time keeping, problem solving and independence.

Help your child by encouraging them to get their uniform and school bag ready the night before.

This week as it is a new term, we are aiming high 96%. Well done to all the year groups achieving this or better. Well done also to St Edmund's who is in line with both national and regional data.

Year	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	98%	92%
1	78%	98%
2	92%	95%
3	85%	96%
4	93%	95%
5	82%	96%
6	87%	90%
School's overall	88.00%	94.94%
Suffolk		94.9%
National		94.8%

Forest School

Children will need **clothing suitable for Forest School** as follows:-

- Wellies/trainers
- Spare socks
- Trousers (jogging bottoms/leggings)
- Long sleeved t-shirt/sweatshirt
- Rain coat
- Hat, scarf, gloves
- Waterproof trousers if possible

The children may come to school wearing their Forest School clothes on the day they will be attending. Please be aware that these clothes will get muddy and wet! They may need a spare pair of jogging bottoms when they get back and some clean footwear for the bus. Please see the dates when each year will be attending.

06.03.25	Year 1 and Reception
13.03.25	Year 1 and Reception



Archie, you always think deeply when you learn. You listen carefully to new learning and quickly absorb new ideas. Then, you confidently and patiently show what you have learnt to your peers. Kindly helping them too. What a star!



Violet, whenever anyone needs someone to help them you are the first to help. Your friends always give you compliments about how you are always there for them. You are an absolute star and we are blessed to have you in our class. What a star!



James has received the Heart of Gold award in Rowan this week. In our recent prayer session, James reflected on the importance of forgiveness and worked carefully as part of his group. He discussed the importance of prayer in Lent and is ready to lead others in prayers in our student-lead session. Congratulations, James!

This week the Oak Class heart of gold goes to Ava-Rai for her fantastic contributions in our prayer and liturgy session on Jesus in the wilderness - well done!



Treat Tables



Congratulations to Lily, winner of Lowestoft Council Round and Third in the Provincial Round.

Her entry, as one of the top three at Province, has been sent for adjudication in the National Final Round, so may win a further award. Well done Lily!



Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday, 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass at 11am in the Church

Thursday, 6th March – World Book Day

Monday, 17th March – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm – book via the school office

Tuesday, 18th March – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm – book via the school office

Wednesday, 26th March – Marina Dance Show – Dance Club

Wednesday, 26th March – Year 5 and Year 6 Music Concert at Sir John Leman

Friday, 4th April – Finish for Easter Holidays

Tuesday, 22nd April – Return to School

Mass Times at St Benet's Catholic Church 11am every Sunday.



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England