



## ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

ASSISTANT HEAD - MISS AMANDA LYONS

Email: [office.stbenets@cpswv.org](mailto:office.stbenets@cpswv.org) Phone: 01502 712012

Website: [www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk)

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

In this week's Gospel, Jesus shares five parables! Why? Jesus knows that we need help to understand the things of Heaven. Children learned that His stories give us clues about how to live holy lives and love like God loves.



**“Jesus told his disciples a parable...”**

**Luke 6:39**

*Children will understand that:*

- *Jesus used parables to help explain holy things.*
- *Jesus' parables show us how to live and love others the way God wants us to.*
- *In Jesus' parables we look beyond the surface, to see the special meaning.*

Thank you to all the parents who have responded to our Catholic Life and Religious Education survey. Please if you haven't already responded take a look before Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. It will be useful for us to review and think about areas we need to develop going forward.

**You said, we did** – so far some of the responses have highlighted that perhaps you are not as aware of the RE curriculum content as you would like to be. If you look on the websites now under Religious Education you will see the outline of the new RE Directory plans across the year groups. You can also see our annual plan of provision for prayer and liturgy.

It was also raised that perhaps some parents were not aware of when they can join in with prayer and liturgy. May I remind you that you will receive invites to your child's class 'stay and pray' sessions. These were held in Autumn term and the next ones will be in summer term. We also have school Masses which you are welcome to come along to, liturgical events such as the Lent Prayer Stations, the crowning of Mary in May and celebration assemblies for example. If any parent feels they would like to lead a Rosary group or prayer group in school we would welcome the support with this. At St Edmund's we are looking for a practising Catholic to run our Mini Vinnie group, so again if you have some spare time each week, we would welcome you coming in to school to lead this.

One other point raised was that it would be nice for parish priest to visit school more. We would also welcome that too, however, we know that Father Simon is now overseeing 4 Churches and are mindful that his time is precious. He does however come in to school to support with Key Stage 2 reconciliation services. Which we are most grateful for.



We have now set up our prayer spaces in school for Lent in both the classrooms and in our communal areas. We begin to centre ourselves in preparation for Easter. Lent – is a time of preparation. At the start of his three-year public ministry, Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

Immediately afterwards he went into the desert of Judea, where he remained for forty days, not eating or drinking at all ('fasting'). He needed to be quiet, to be alone and to pray at the start of the work that God had sent him to earth to do. There in the desert he was tempted to use his supernatural powers to win people to follow him; he was tempted to do things the easy way and not God's way, but he did not acquiesce.

Lent lasts for six weeks and is the 40 days before Easter in the Christian calendar (not including Sundays!). It is a time of disciplined preparation for the great festival of Easter—a time for getting spiritually fit. It is a time to stop and take stock of life and to make resolutions to do better in future. Many Christians try to do something special during Lent. This might be something extra like reading a thoughtful book about the Christian faith, spending more time in prayer, or it might be giving something up (cakes or chocolate, for example) as an act of self-denial and discipline, and giving the money saved to a charity.

Some ideas of what you can do as a family in Lent are:

- Offer prayers for specific people and intentions. Light a candle each time you pray to help you focus.
- Give each person in the family their own jar placed in a conspicuous location. For every good deed or sacrifice made, you get to put a bean in the jar. For Easter, switch out the beans for jelly beans to show everyone how sweet their sacrifices have become in the eyes of God.
- Ask each family member to fill a bag of personal belongings to give away to those in need. After the bags are filled, pile everyone in the car or on the bus and deliver the goods in person to charity to be shared with others. On the way, take the opportunity to talk to your children about how these donations might help those in need, ask them questions about how they think these donations will help others, what it might feel like to be in need and why God wants us to help.
- Try giving up something as a family. Have everyone sit around the table and decide what that might be. Maybe it's sugary drinks or perhaps going out to eat at restaurants. But whatever it is, decide together and stick to it. Remind one another of the family commitment and encourage each other to keep going. Adults and children alike benefit spiritually and otherwise by loosening the bonds that tie us to earthly desires.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Mrs Barlow

### Attendance Matters



This week we have a goal of 95%. Again there has been a lot of illness in both schools (pupils and staff), but it is good to see that term time holiday requests are minimising and you are doing all you can to make sure your child is in school. Well done.

Year Group	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	89%	93%
1	97%	98%
2	97%	96%
3	94%	96%
4	97%	95%
5	89%	96%
6	92%	89%

### 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.

13.03.25	Year 1 and Reception
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### Treat Tables



## WORLD BOOK DAY

The children shared their books with friends, designed new front covers and then wrote secret messages on paper boats about their favourite books and sent them down their River of Reading.





Obadara, you were extremely reflective when we talked about ways to make a fresh start and change your heart in Collective Worship this week. You talked with your friends about a memory that you have and shared with them how you do things differently because of it. We always love a 'Beautiful Oops!' in Beech Class. What a star you are, Obadara!





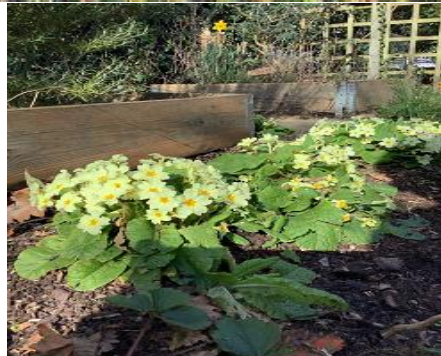
Ivy Ann, you explained to your friends a way to make a fresh start and change your heart. In a very simple way you said, "You get all the good things in your heart!" This is a wonderful way to think positively Ivy, such a star!

This week's Heart of Gold Award Rowan class goes to Aiden. Aiden embodied our value of hope and had been a light to others this week through being kind and helpful.



The Oak Class heart of gold goes to Damian for his fantastic ideas about hope during our spiritual journaling session. Well done!

### Gardening Club is back



### **Dates for your Diaries**

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

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

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March – Marina Dance Show – Dance Club

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

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April – Finish for Easter Holidays

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Return to School

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



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