



ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

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Our Gospel assembly this week, helps children to move from thinking about Jesus' birth to His Baptism, which marked the start of His public ministry. Children reflected on their identity as God's children and learned that they too are invited to become a special part of His family.



"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Mark 1: 11

Children will learn that:

- Jesus' baptism was a significant event in His life.
- We are all a part of God's family and are invited to become a child of God through baptism.
- Baptism for us (as babies or adults) marks the new life we begin with God.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and had the best time together as a family. As we begin a new year and a new term, I am sure all the children are looking forward to what this will bring and all the new things they will discover.

During our training day, the staff brought a selection of books for history and geography to share across the federation to celebrate the creativity and depth of knowledge shown by the children last term. The expectation within our curriculum is to inspire in our children, through high challenge and use of authentic resources, to create beautiful work and develop independent thinking around this. Over the coming weeks, I want to be able to share some of this with you. I will be asking the teachers to send me some photos of work they are proud of so I can put them onto the newsletters.

We were also inspired through a talk from Sister Judith Russi about how we can develop and embed Catholic Social Teaching in our schools. This is the essence of what makes us one family under God as a Catholic school, what makes us special and what we do for our brothers and sisters because of this.

Part of this discussion, was to consider how we facilitate for our children to be ambassadors for change for our world. Therefore, each term I am going to pose a 'big question' to the classes and any child who wants to speak out around the topic will have the opportunity to prepare for and deliver a speech to the school at the end of the half term. I will let you know what the 'big question' is so you can help your child think about what this means to them and what they could do about it.

Unfortunately, we have started the term with some illness amongst staff in both schools, please keep them in your prayers and that we can all remain well for the remainder of this term.

As the colder weather comes into play this month, I am praying that we don't have heavy snow, although I am sure the children are doing the opposite! It is always a difficult decision to close the schools and I really dread this time of year for this reason. However, many of our staff drive a distance to get to school so for operational reasons I may need to fully close or partially close but I will always endeavour to give you as much notice as I possibly can through the website, school Facebook groups and the local Suffolk County Council website. If we do close we have the ability to move to online learning as we did during Covid lockdown.

Our new websites will be going live on 23rd January, we are so excited to share these with you and feel very proud of how they look and showcase both schools.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the rest after the first full week back

Best wishes

Mrs Barlow

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you must apply for a primary school place for the 2024/2025 school year by the closing date of 15th January 2024.

Applications should be completed online via the Suffolk County Council website or if you live in Norfolk then Norfolk County Council website. For our school we also ask that you complete a Supplementary Information form, which can be emailed to you or downloaded from our website and once completed please return the form to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

WANTED PLEASE

We will be starting a new lunchtime club and would be most grateful if you have any Chess or Draughts sets that you could donate to School? Thank you.

Forest School

We are very pleased that each year group will get the chance to attend Forest School again. The sessions will be on a Thursday afternoon during school time. The children will take a mini-bus down to the Common after registration at 1:00 p.m. and will be collected and returned to school for 3:15 p.m.

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 e.g. a spare pair of jogging bottoms when they get back. The Community Bus also asks that children have a clean pair of shoes/trainers to change into after the visit, before they get into the mini bus. Please see the dates when each year will be attending.

18.01.24	Yr 5
25.01.24	Yr 4
01.02.24	Yr 3
08.02.24	Yr 2
15.02.24	Yr 1
29.02.24	Rec



This week, Class One's Heart of Gold is awarded to Manny for giving us some very thoughtful responses when we talked about promises. What a star!



Willow Wilson is the Class 2 heart of gold for thoughtful response to our discussion about making promises and really considering what it means to keep a promise.

The Heart of Gold this week in class 3 is Koa who has settled in so well to our class. He listened carefully to our class assembly about kindness and made a lovely prayer for our prayer tree.



This week the Class 4 heart of gold goes to Solomon for giving an excellent response about showing commitment. He also explained the importance of asking for help when we need it, which is always so important. Well done!

Year 6 at Forest School



Treat Tables



Dates for your Diaries

Friday, 16th February – break up for half term

Monday, 26th February – return to school

Mass Times at St Benet's Catholic Church 10.30am every Sunday.



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