



ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Through the Gospel account of Jesus healing a leper, this week's assembly explored those who might be excluded and invites children to follow Jesus' example of compassion and welcome.



"If you want to," he said, "you can cure me." Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. "Of course I want to!" He said. "Be cured!" And the leprosy left him at once...

Mark 1: 41

Key Messages

Children will understand that:

- Jesus welcomes everyone with compassion and care.
- We too can show the same compassion and welcome to all.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term is almost finished and the days are very slowly beginning to lighten. I think we are all looking forward to Spring at the moment and the children have done very well in what has been quite dark, wet and gloomy days this month.

We had two special Ash Wednesday Masses this week to begin our journey into the season of Lent. This is a time, we were reminded to pray, fast and give alms. Perhaps it is worth thinking during this time what can we do to give more to others and to add in more acts of kindness to our days.

We had the privilege of hearing children speak passionately about caring for our world in our 'Big Speech' this week. This was truly and amazing opportunity to hear from our children what they feel strongly about in terms of caring for others, creation and for our global neighbours. I want to thank all the children who got involved and the parents for coming along to listen and support them. I know the feedback already has been very positive and more children want to take part next time. Now I have to think of an equally challenging question!

Just a reminder too, about Vocations Day, I have had some parents come forward and offer their time to talk to the children about their jobs and talents. Please if you can offer your time to come and inspire our children we will be so happy to welcome you in. Be prepared for lots of questions!

I wish you all a very much needed half term break and hope your children can recharge and relax.

Have a lovely time.

Mrs Barlow

Staffing

At present Mrs Rogers is still off school unwell, please keep her in your prayers. We very much miss her and hope that she can make it back soon. We all send her the biggest hug as a school community.

Mrs Curtis will also be off sick until at least the 4th March, again please join me in sending her well wishes for a speedy recovery.

Onto other sad news, as we say goodbye to Mrs Clarke on Friday. She has been such a big part of St Edmund's for a long, long time and we will definitely miss her. However, she has to put her health and wellbeing first and has decided to take a break from teaching but once she feels better, she has said she would still like to play a part in the Catholic life of the school. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done to contribute to the strength of the school. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future. However, we welcome Mrs Vorster to our team initially for 3 days a week for the Reception class. Mrs Vorster taught at St Benet's last year and is a fantastic teacher with a zest for Early Years.

St Edmund's are looking for two Teaching Assistants, the jobs are on My New Term, which is the new vacancy site we are using as a Trust. If you know anyone who would be suitable and interested please point then in the direction of Tina at finance.stedmunds@cpswv.org. We really need to fill these vacancies as soon as possible.

St Benet's is looking for a Midday Supervisor and again this can be found on the My New Term website. Please point anyone interested on our direction. This is because sadly Mrs Dunn will be leaving us in March after 15 years with the school. Again, she has been an amazing member of staff and great support to the children at lunch times. We won't know what to do without her and will miss her. Thank you Mrs Dunn for all you have done for the children of St Benet's.

Attendance

When children attend school consistently they are more likely to do well in their work but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community. It also demonstrates reliability which will help prepare children for life beyond education and looks positive to future employers.

As always we are aiming for 96% to be at national average and keep our attendance figures high. Well done to the year groups achieving this or close to, this week.

Year	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	93%	98%
1	93%	95%
2	87%	95%
3	94%	93%
4	79%	95%
5	92%	93%
6	91%	93%

Following on from my last newsletter regarding behaviour in school, this information may be helpful to parents who feel there needs to be some support around this.

Encouraging positive behaviour – From ParentKind website

There are lots of reasons for difficult or challenging behaviour so if you're told your child's behaviour requires improvement, it's important to put aside your emotions, do some fact-finding, and work together with your child and their teachers to get the best outcome.

Listen to your child without judgement

Have open conversations with your child and listen closely to what they tell you. Let them talk freely about what it's like at school, and ask what goes well as well as what doesn't. Older children will be able to tell you in more detail, but try and encourage your child to focus on facts rather than emotions and opinions.

Wait until your child has finished before moving on to discuss what might make things better for them. Try to avoid saying anything that might (unintentionally) reinforce or make worse any negative feelings they have about themselves or school, like "you shouldn't feel that way" or "your teacher shouldn't do that".

Find out what the school expects

Once you've got a handle on your child's view of the situation, make an appointment to speak to their teacher. Prepare for the meeting by reading the school behaviour policy, so you'll have a good understanding of what's expected and how the school promotes positive behaviour for learning.

The relationship you have with your child's teacher and school will certainly affect how you feel about going in for this kind of meeting. If you're at all worried about it, read our tips for [communicating with the school](#).

Talk to your child's teacher

Just as you had an open, non-judgmental conversation with your child, try and do the same with their teacher. Listen to what they tell you before asking questions or talking about solutions. Take with you some notes from the conversations you've had with your child, and a list of questions you'd like to ask. If you're not clear on what the school's behaviour policy is, or why they manage behaviour in the way they do, ask your child's teacher to explain their reasons.

There's lots of information that will be useful for you to share too, like a list of the things you do at home that support positive behaviour for learning, and some examples of any challenges you've faced in the past (or now), including what has, or hasn't worked.

Discuss any concerns you have about how school affects your child, for example if they're struggling with homework, reluctant to go to school, or showing any signs of anxiety or stress. If there's something going on at home that could be affecting their behaviour at school, like a sick relative or a house move, it's really helpful for teachers to know about it — any personal information you share will be treated with confidence.

In a nutshell, the more open the communication is between home and school, the easier it will be to work together to make school life happier for your child.

Promote positive behaviour at home

When your child does something great, like working hard on a project (not necessarily school-related), showing kindness to friends or family, or being persistent at something — let them know you've noticed their efforts by telling them so, and remind them they should be proud of themselves too.

Be a good role model. We can all have our off days, but don't underestimate the power of being a good role model for your kids. If you want them to be respectful, kind (online as well as in the 'real' world), and feel positive about school, then make sure they see you behaving that way too. If you have rules in place, like doing homework before TV, or no phones at the dinner table, the whole family needs to stick to them.

Support their learning. Talk positively about school and let your child know you're there to support their learning at home, support them at exam time, attend parents' evenings, and (as much as you can) go along to other school events.

Seek expert help if you're worried

If you're worried that your child's behaviour isn't improving, or they're struggling to cope, make an appointment to speak to the staff member responsible for pastoral care at your child's school. If you're concerned there could be an underlying condition affecting their behaviour, contact your GP or other family health professional.

Forest School

Forest School 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.

29.02.24	Year 1
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Reception Children at Forest School





This week Class One's Heart of Gold is James. James shared some thoughtful responses when we shared memories of how others can spread light in our life. James knew that it isn't just people in our world that do this, it's animals too! What a star!



James has the Heart of Gold this week for bringing light into the lives of his classmates. He is always ready to help and share with his peers and works well with all. He shows great sensitivity and grace.

Class 3's Heart of Gold this week is Neave. She is always considerate and has been very helpful to other children and staff this week. She thought carefully about how we can share our light and kindness with others.



This week our heart of gold is Louisa for giving a great explanation of who brings light to her life.

Treat Tables



Dates for your Diaries

Friday, 16th February – break up for half term

Monday, 26th February – return to school

Tuesday, 19th March - 2pm - 3:15pm - School Council Walkathon

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



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