



ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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In the Gospel story of the rich young man, Jesus tells us how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of Heaven when we have many possessions. In our assembly, children were encouraged to think about what is, and what is not, truly valuable in their lives.



“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:25

Children will understand that:

- Loving God and loving others is more important than loving things.
- If things can stand in the way of loving God or loving others – then it is better for us to let them go.
- By following Jesus, we build up treasures in Heaven.

Thank you to all who attended our Harvest Assembly at St Benet's it was a lovely occasion and the children did amazingly well with their readings and presentation. I look forward to St Edmund's one on Monday and hope as many parents as possible will join us for that. Please keep your foodbank donations coming in, we have done remarkably well so far with the collections.

It has been lovely to have our new priest Father Simon attend these celebrations and speak to the children, we feel privileged to finally have good links again with the parish.

We look forward to seeing you at parent/teacher meetings next week. Please remember if your child is on the SEND register to book a 20 minute slot instead of a 10 minute one. You can call the office anytime and they will let you know what appointments are still available.

Our prospective parents open morning for St Edmund's is 6th November and for St Benet's is the 5th November, both start at 9:30 and will run to 11:30. Please share this with friends, family and neighbours. We are all so proud of our schools and would love to see it grow but many people say that they don't know that non Catholic children can attend our schools, as you know many of our children are not baptised Catholic. Please share Facebook posts and encourage parents to come and take a look at us. We are so unique and have so much to offer.

Have a wonderful weekend. Mrs Barlow

Staffing

At St Edmund's we say goodbye to Mr Hackett who has decided to pursue alternative avenues with his career. We thank him for his support of the school and the children.

However, we do welcome two new teaching assistants, both with a teaching background, Mrs Holden and Miss Barrett. They will be the new teaching assistants for Beech Class.

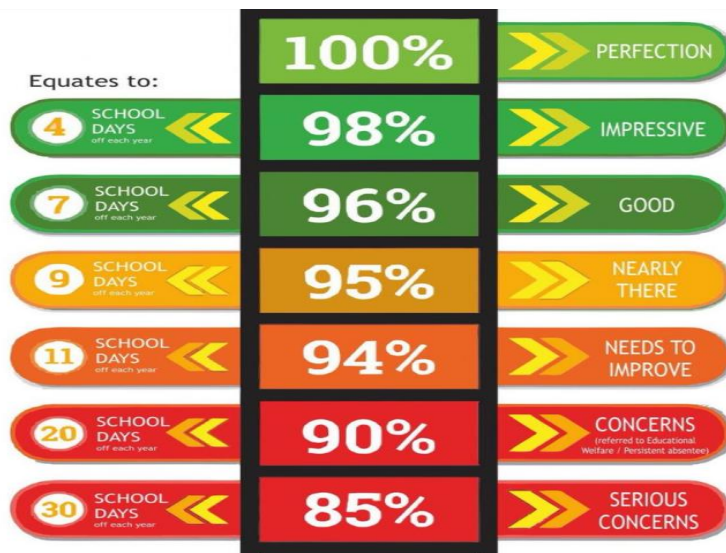
Mrs Lawson, is moving to three days as she pursues a University degree to further her journey towards becoming a teacher. We are really pleased that she is taking this step and fully support her on this pathway to what she so rightly deserves. This will mean that Mrs Rogers will step into Oak class in her place as the full time Teaching Assistant.

At St Benet's we say good bye to Mrs Tyler (MDSA) who was very sorry to leave but has found a job with more hours that suit her. She will be with us until the end of this half term. Therefore we are looking for a replacements MDSA, if you know anyone who would be interested in this position please email the school.

Attendance

Our school target again is 96%. We are still receiving requests for holidays in term time. The DFE guidelines now state very clearly we cannot authorise these. New regulations standardise the use of fines for unauthorised absences. Parents will face increased fines if their child misses five days of school without permission. The fines have been raised from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days, and from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days. From the autumn, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any second notice will automatically be charged at £160.

The flyers below gives an overview of how this will work.



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after **19th August 2024**.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Well done to the year groups who have achieved 96% or better. It is rather concerning that both Year 6 classes have such low percentages. This is your final year of school and one that is really important for gaining the knowledge and skills to be high school ready. I really hope we can see this begin to improve over the coming weeks.

Year Group	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	100%	95%
1	96%	99%
2	90%	98%
3	92%	97%
4	96%	95%
5	93%	97%
6	90%	92%

HOW ILL DO KIDS NEED TO BE TO NOT GO TO SCHOOL?

 Sore throat SEND TO SCHOOL	 Cough SEND TO SCHOOL	 Runny nose SEND TO SCHOOL	 Temperature STAY AT HOME	 Cold sores SEND TO SCHOOL
 Conjunctivitis SEND TO SCHOOL	 Head lice SEND TO SCHOOL	 Threadworms SEND TO SCHOOL	 Scarlet fever STAY AT HOME	 Vomiting and diarrhoea STAY AT HOME

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout October and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

After school clubs will change to Gymnastics after half term both KS1 and KS2. Please sign up via Wisepay and we are pleased to say that all after school clubs are still FREE. Thank you.

Beech Class Stay and Pray Session – Monday, 21st October 2.30pm – 3.15pm - Parents and carers of children who are in Beech Class are invited to a stay and pray session on Monday, 21st October between 2.30pm and 3.15pm.

Forest School

Children will need **clothing suitable for Forest School** as follow,

- 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.

24.10.24	Year 1 & Reception
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PARENTS EVENINGS - Wednesday, 23rd October 3.30pm - 6pm and Thursday, 24th October 3.30pm - 6pm.

Please book your time slot via the school office. Thank you.



Charlotte, you are a very trustworthy member of our class. You always choose to do the right thing and your friends can always rely on you to be there for them when they need you. Furthermore, you have been working extremely hard in all your learning and the adults trust you to always do your best. You are a star!



Yoana, you have become more independent in your learning and you have displayed a true trust in the people around you. You now know that things may not always go to plan, but this is ok!

Especially because we always love a 'Beautiful Oops' in Beech Class!



The Heart of Gold award in Rowan class this week goes to Evelyn. She spoke very confidently about how trust can be earned and how we can keep our promises. Evelyn is also very trustworthy and is always enthusiastic about helping others and completing classroom jobs.

This week's heart of gold goes to Josh for a beautiful piece of spiritual journaling in RE, which showed the importance of faith in his life.



Treat Tables





Library book changing day is Wednesday each week. Please could children bring in their school library books on that day. Thank you.

Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday, 23rd October – Flu Immunisation Team Visit

Wednesday, 23rd October – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm – Book via the office

Thursday, 24th October – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm – Book via the office.

Friday, 25th October – Finish for half term

Thursday, 31st October – Year 6 Pupils deadline for High School Applications for September 2025 – Please make sure you apply online as soon as possible.

Monday, 4th November – Return to School

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

