



## ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

In this first week of Advent, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus and the beginning of the Year of Jubilee with the opening of the Holy Door, children will invite Jesus to open their minds. With minds open to welcome Jesus into our lives and be like Jesus to those we meet, we can learn how to respond to difficulties with strength and courage.



**“Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

**Luke 21:28 (ESVCE Version)**

Children will understand that:

- We have hope because Jesus came to be with us at Christmas, which we prepare for during Advent.

- Jesus gives us strength and courage to face difficulties when we are open to Him.
- When we are open to Jesus we can share His love with those we meet.

As we are now in the season of Advent, we look to prepare ourselves for Christmas and the special time this is for us as a Christian family. In Advent we celebrate the first coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his Incarnation, and we look forward to the return of the King at the fullness of time.

The first candle we light this week is HOPE.

May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.

The theme of this special jubilee year is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and we particularly think about our world struggling with war, sickness and climate change. Hope is when we wish for good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring. Christian hope is based on belief and faith in God.

Hope is also linked to patience because what we hope for and believe don't always happen immediately.

Hope helps us to wait patiently. Patience keeps our hope alive.

**Consider what fun things you hope for but have to wait for and what bigger things do you hope for?**

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Barlow

### **Nativity/Carol Service**

**A reminder that St Edmund's is on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and St Benet's is 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.**

We know it may be somewhat disappointing to limit the places to 2 family members but we have to adhere to health and safety regulations when we host in the school hall as opposed to the church. I can assure you we are not doing this to exclude anyone!

We took the decision not to do an evening performance for the wellbeing of both staff and pupils. Some of which at this time of year are plagued with illness, coughs and colds.

My hope, is that you are understanding of this situation and can see this is about the children enjoying themselves and their celebration of the importance of the Nativity.

We have tried to make this as fair as possible and really do not wish to take the step to ticket this event on a first come first serve basis simply to provide places for extended family.

We look forward to making this a special service and one that truly brings the season alive.

## Attendance Matters

This week's goal is 95%. Well done to all the year groups who have achieved this or exceeded it. We know there has been a lot of sickness across both schools this week, so are understanding that some percentages will be lower than normal.

Year Group	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	96%	93%
1	92%	99%
2	95%	98%
3	92%	97%
4	96%	95%
5	79%	97%
6	89%	92%



Jayden, you are kind and caring to everyone. You show you are thankful in many ways especially with the grown ups who are close to you. You care for them and ask them if they are ok which shows how much you value them. Well done Jayden you have a lovely Heart of Gold. What a star!

Starr, you are curious about the world around you and think deeply about what is important to you. You show you are thankful because you consider the people and nature around you. What a star!



This week's heart of Gold in Rowan class is Luke. He is always cheerful and shows gratitude for everything he has. He always approaches any task enthusiastically and gives any challenge a go. Well done Luke.

The heart of gold this week goes Maci for showing gratitude and thankfulness for the things she has. Well done for sharing your thoughts sensitively.



## Hungate Christmas Tree Festival

On Monday, we had the opportunity to take the children to visit the Christmas tree display, which was a delightful experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the beautifully decorated trees, each showcasing its own unique design. We felt a great sense of pride in our tree this year, as it truly reflected the creativity of our students. It was also lovely to see the Year 5 and 6 students helping their younger buddies. A heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed to the organisation of our tree and made this visit possible. Additionally, thank you to all those who organized the stall at the light switch on with the extra ornaments the children made.



## Mini Vinnies Christmas Carols

Our mini Vinnie's also took a delightful trip to a local care home, spreading festive cheer through song! The residents were thrilled as we sang some classic Christmas carols, bringing smiles and laughter to their day. To add to the joy, we handed out a lovely card crafted by our students, filled with warm wishes. It was a heart warming experience that truly helped us connect with our community and share the spirit of the season.



## Treat Tables



### Mini Vinnie decoration sale.

The children put their hearts into making beautiful angel decorations to sell, all to raise money for CAFOD. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we've beaten our goal of £28 by raising an incredible £89! This means we can provide two goats and some bees for a school in Bangladesh—such a fantastic achievement! If you're looking for a thoughtful Christmas gift, why not consider a CAFOD World Gift? You can find them online and help spread some festive cheer while supporting a good cause. Thank you for your support.



### Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service and Nativity Play 2pm

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas Lunch – please order on SELECT by Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December – Finish for Christmas

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January – Return to School

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