



ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

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14th March 2025

Inspired by the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert, the Celebration of the Word assembly invited children to explore the Jubilee themes of slavery and freedom through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We can be 'slaves' to things that distract us from God.

We are called to grow our friendship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We can all be Pilgrims of Hope by putting God first and experiencing the freedom God brings.

'And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.'"

Luke 4:8

Children will understand that:

- The Year of Jubilee is an opportunity to draw closer to God.
- During Lent God calls us to free ourselves from things that get in the way of our friendship with Him.
- We can be 'Pilgrims of Hope' by experiencing God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

I have had the privilege to drop into some RE lessons this week and have been really impressed with the reflective and spiritual growth that I have witnessed from the children. There has been a real focus on the start of Lent and exploring that it is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. I have seen scripture used to share stories from the Bible such as Jesus' time in the desert to help children understand the significance of self-discipline and spiritual growth.

Many of the children have made Lenten promises that included their prayer intentions for others, promising to give more in terms of kindness to others and thinking carefully about what they could give up to show Jesus their commitment to his way.

Our Key Stage 2 children will take part in a reconciliation service this half term too, but all across the year groups I have heard the children really engage with the act of forgiveness.

You as parents play a vital role in nurturing your children's spiritual lives too and helping them grow closer to God. There are many ways you can support your child's faith journey:

- Attend Mass regularly, praying together and living out Christian values
- Reflect God's love to others through actions like forgiveness, generosity, and compassion in everyday life.
- Teach children how to pray in their own words and set aside quiet moments for personal reflection
- Use age appropriate Bible Stories to share about Jesus, the saints and God's love.
- Involve children in acts of kindness and charity, such as volunteering or donating to this in need.
- Help children keep a journal to write or draw things they are thankful for each day, or create a family gratitude jar.

By creating a home centred on faith and love, parents can help their children build a strong, lasting relationship with God. The consistency and sincerity of these practices will nurture a deep and enduring spiritual connection.



The Big Lent Walk is next Friday 21st March – Please see below for the Just Giving Pages for each school. We really hope you can give generously and help us reach our target of £200 in each school.

St Benet's - <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-benets-big-lent-walk-fundraising-page>

St Edmund's - <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmunds-big-lent-walk-fundraising-page>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Barlow



This week's goal is 95%. Well done to all year groups that have met this goal this week and those who have exceeded it. We really do see the difference in progress of pupils when they are in school regularly.

Year Group	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	100%	93%
1	93%	99%
2	96%	95%
3	93%	96%
4	97%	95%
5	88%	96%
6	87%	89%
Schools Overall against national of 95.6%	93%	94.5%

Treat Tables





Isla, you are always kind and thoughtful. You help others by offering your friendship, and play wonderful games with them if they need cheering up. Such a star!



Delcie, you showed this week's gospel value of Love and Charity during our PE lesson. You worked with a group and showed them different ways to throw to a target ensuring they took turns and played fairly. What a star you are!



This week's heart of gold in Rowan class goes to Theo. He thought carefully about how we can change for the better during Lent and our gospel value of love and charity. He spoke confidently as a Mini Vinnie on the need to help others.



This week's Oak Class heart of gold goes to Joseph for his fantastic contributions to our class discussion. He explained that when we receive forgiveness, we should use that opportunity to help others. He said that we should help people overcome their challenges whatever they may be. Well done!

Location: NDHS, Sports Hall - St Pauls

Notre Dame High School's
Production of

Disney

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

ON STAGE!

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by
Peter Barsocchini

Performances:
Wednesday 26th March at 7pm
Thursday 27th March at 7pm
Friday 28th March at 7pm

Ticket Prices: Adults £10
Students & Concessions £8

Buy Tickets Here

Or visit Ticket Source:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/notre-dame-high-school>

<p>Book by David Simpatico</p>	<p>Songs by Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Neull; Ray Cham, Greg Cham and Andrew Seeley; Randy Petersen and Kevin Quinn; Andy Dodd and Adam Watts; Bryan Louiselle; David N. Lawrence and Faye Greenberg; Jamie Houston</p>	<p>Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by Bryan Louiselle</p>
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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Dates for your Diaries

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

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

Wednesday, 26th March – Marina Dance Show – Dance Club

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

Friday, 4th April – Finish for Easter Holidays

Tuesday, 22nd April – Return to School

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



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