



## ST BENET'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE HEAD - MRS SAM BARLOW

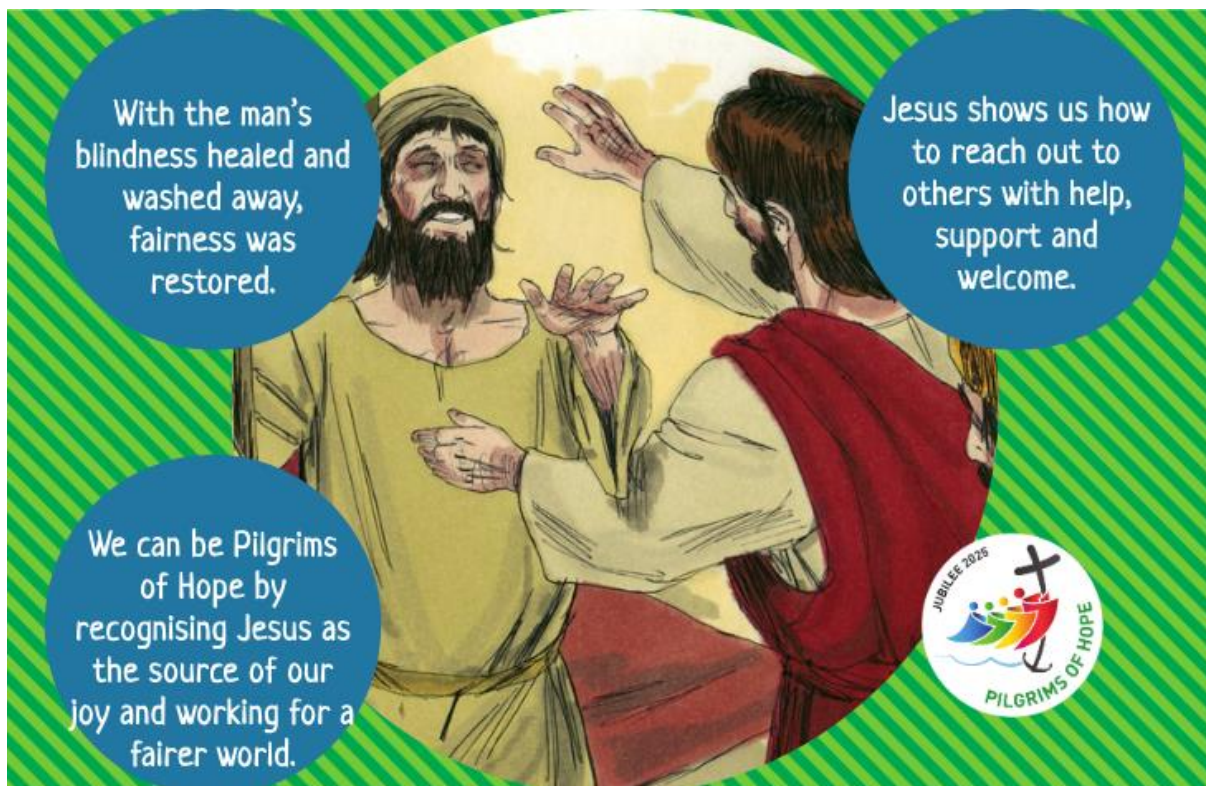
ASSISTANT HEAD - MISS AMANDA LYONS

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Inspired by Jesus' healing of the man born blind, the Celebration of the Word assembly invited children to consider Jesus as the source of their joy during this Jubilee Year ahead of Laetare Sunday!



**“He said, “Lord, I believe”, and he worshipped Him.”**

**John 9:38**

Children will understand that:

- The Year of Jubilee is an opportunity to share our joy and grow our friendship with God.
- During Lent, God calls us to draw closer to Him by reaching out to others.
- We can be 'Pilgrims of Hope' by working together for a fairer world.

During Lent, Catholics are called to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a way to grow closer to God and reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus. As a Catholic school and as families whose children attend a Catholic school, we have engaged in some meaningful ways to live out this Lenten call by reaching out to others. Our Big Lent walk was a success in both school and thank you to all the parents who contributed to the fundraising. This was a powerful way to engage children on the impact their contributions can make to the lives of others.

We have undertaken the Stations of the Cross within the school community to create a prayerful opportunity and helped children reflect on the meaning of sacrifice. Through the children designing and leading their own prayer stations next week, we have focused on dedicating time for adoration and gratitude to God.

I was very proud to take a sample of our children's work to the RE Leader's Day last week, where we collectively across our diocese looked at the work produced from schools who have introduced the new RE Directory. This has been introduced to modernise and deepen the teaching of RE in schools, ensuring that it is both faithful to Church teachings and responsive to contemporary challenges.

I could see the impact of this in the books I saw generally but especially in our own school's books. The responses from the children really show how we are helping children to grow in faith and encounter Christ. The creativity and depth of knowledge I have seen has been very encouraging as this is still really early days for us along the journey of implementation. Some of our work will go into a national exemplification document to support assessment, which I am very proud of.

The new Religious Education Directory has reinvigorated RE in our schools, fostering a deeper connection between faith, learning, and life. While the transition has required significant effort, as we have needed to plan schemes of work ourselves, the result is a more dynamic, mission-oriented, and inclusive approach to Religious Education that aims to form not only knowledgeable pupils but also compassionate and faith-filled individuals.

I want to thank my teaching staff for being so dedicated to the planning and delivery of this and I know we will continue going from strength to strength.

On behalf of the school and myself, I want to take this opportunity to thank Miss McEntee and the children for their amazing performance at the dance show this week. The dedication and commitment shown by all is a huge credit to the school. I know I am a little biased but they were by far the best on stage. Always a joy to watch each year so thank you.

Have a lovely weekend and Mother's Day.

Mrs Barlow

## The Big Lent Walk

St Benet's raised: -

This is excellent, thank you so much for your amazing contributions.

## THE BIG LENT WALK: SCHOOLS

Raised  
**£267**

Target  
**£200**



St Edmund's raised: -

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the monies raised.

## THE BIG LENT WALK: SCHOOLS

Raised  
**£59**

Target  
**£200**



The fundraising pages will remain open if you still wish to donate. They children did so well walking 2 miles and knowing they were doing this is solidarity for those who are most in need.

## Attendance Matters

# Attendance Ladder



This week our goal is 96% for both schools. What happens when children persistently fall below this? I generally discuss these situations with my EWO who visits the school half termly.

The role of an Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) is essential in ensuring that children receive the education they are entitled to. EWOs work closely with schools, families, and other agencies to address issues related to school attendance, welfare, and safeguarding. Here's a clear explanation for parents about what an EWO does:

The primary role of an Educational Welfare Officer is to promote regular school attendance and ensure that every child has access to education. They help identify and address barriers that may prevent a child from attending school regularly and work with families to create solutions. Their key responsibilities are set out below this may be why you may have a letter of concern sent to you if the attendance of your child falls below 90%.

### **Monitoring Attendance:**

- EWOs monitor school attendance records to identify patterns of absenteeism or persistent absence.
- They may contact families if a child's attendance drops below a certain level to understand the reasons and provide support.

### **Providing Support:**

- EWOs offer advice and guidance to families struggling with issues such as illness, family challenges, or other circumstances impacting attendance.
- They may help parents' access additional services or resources to address these challenges.

### **Enforcing Attendance Laws:**

- When necessary, EWOs have a statutory duty to enforce school attendance laws. This could involve issuing warning letters, attending meetings, or, in extreme cases, initiating legal action if parents fail to ensure their child's regular attendance.

### **When Might You Meet an EWO?**

Parents may come into contact with an EWO if:

- Their child has a high number of unexplained absences.
- There are concerns about their child's well-being or engagement with school.
- The school has referred the family for additional support.

### **Why is Regular Attendance Important?**

- Regular attendance is vital for academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being.
- Missing school can impact a child's learning, confidence, and future opportunities.

Year Group	St Benet's	St Edmund's
R	97%	93%
1	92%	98%
2	98%	95%
3	91%	96%
4	96%	95%
5	95%	96%
6	91%	89%
School	94%	94%
Local Authority	94%	
National	94%	



Sebby, in Collective Worship you shared a story that created a great discussion about Forgiveness. You made everyone think more deeply about why we should forgive and shared how forgiving sometimes can be difficult. A fantastic discussion, what a star!



Starr, you always forgive others and help them to make the right choices. You are a great role model to others because you show generosity and kindness. You never make judgements and always see goodness in people. You are a star!

This week's Heart of Gold award in Rowan class goes to Moses as many children in our class have told me how helpful and kind he has been. He is a good friend who is able to settle differences and be forgiving.



This week, the heart of gold for Oak Class goes to Max for speaking articulately in our prayer session about the importance of forgiveness. Well done!



### Treat Tables



### Dates for your Diaries

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April – Finish for Easter Holidays

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Return to School

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April – Oak Class – Time and Tide Museum for Viking Day

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April – Rotary Quiz at St. Edmunds – Year 6

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