



# THE ST. BENET'S NEWSLETTER

RINGSFIELD ROAD, BECCLES, NR34 9PQ  
EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER – MR KENNEDY  
ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER – MISS LYONS

Website: [www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benets.suffolk.sch.uk)

Email: [office.stbenets@cpswv.org](mailto:office.stbenets@cpswv.org)

Phone: 01502 712012

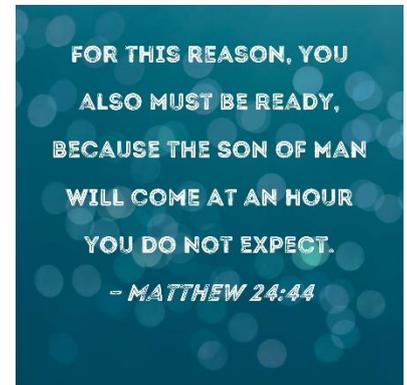
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## PREPARE IN HOPE

This week we began the season of Advent, a time filled with hope as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The children spent time thinking about how Advent is not only about getting ready for a celebration but also about waiting with trust and expectation for Jesus who promised to be with us always.

Our prayer focus drew inspiration from the life of St Nicholas whose generosity and compassion reminded us how small acts of kindness can reveal God's love. As we moved through the first days of Advent together, we encourage families to find simple ways to share hope with others both in school and at home.



## NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Before I arrived in my role as Executive Head teacher and during the first few months I have been in post, we have seen an influx of newly appointed Foundation Governors. These Governors are appointed by the Diocese after being recommended by our Parish Priest, Fr. Simon Blakesley. I wanted to recognise their role in school and extend a warm welcome to them all. They are (in alphabetical order): Sue Allen, Angela Marshall, Lorna Pearce and Howard Trust.

## NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

We received one nomination for the vacant post of Parent Governor. I am pleased to announce that Kathryn Pearson has therefore been appointed to this position. Kathryn will officially take up her role as of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December and I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating her on her new position.

As you can see from above, we have recently seen an increase in the number of Foundation Governors at our school. As a result, we are in a position to increase the number of parent governors on our Governing Board. Please let Mr Kennedy know if you are interested in joining our Board.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PTA! - CHRISTMAS FILM NIGHT

There is still time to buy tickets for our PTFA Christmas film night taking place straight after school on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. We will be watching Arthur Christmas and will be serving hot chocolate and cookies (included in ticket price). The cost will be £5 per child. Please pay via this link: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QJELYS8E>

All parents are welcome to join, the film will finish at 17:15 so please come at this time to collect them from school. Hope to see you all there! From the PTA

## WAVENEY VALLEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Waveney Valley Christmas Fayre will take place from 10:00 to 16:00 in St Edmund's Church Hall on St Mary's Street in Bungay. The fayre will feature a lovely selection of gifts, sweet treats and special keepsakes created by local makers and businesses.

It's a great chance to warm up with us and perhaps find that last special something as we move closer to the festive season. All are welcome.



The Catholic Schools of  
the waveney valley



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

### **CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES – REMINDER!**

As we move into this joyful season, we have a number of Christmas events planned for our children and families to enjoy. We hope the coming weeks will be filled with celebration, community and festive spirit across the school.

- **Friday 12th December** – The whole school will be heading to the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft for our annual visit to the pantomime, always a much-loved Christmas tradition. **CONSENT FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER!!!**
- **Tuesday 16th December** – Our Christmas Carol Service and Nativity will take place at 2pm, followed by tea, coffee and mince pies for families. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.
- **Wednesday 17th December** – We will be enjoying Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – PTFA film night after school. Details above!
- **Friday 19th December** – School closes for the Christmas holidays.

We look forward to celebrating these festive events together as we journey through Advent towards Christmas.

### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – POPPY APPEAL**

We are pleased to share that our school raised £94.45 for the Royal British Legion during this year's Poppy Appeal for Remembrance Day. Thank you to all families who contributed and supported the appeal in any way. Across the region, a total of £15,757.17 was raised. We are proud to have played a part in supporting the vital work of the Royal British Legion and in helping to honour those who have served.

### **VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS**

The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service is seeking volunteers to serve as school admission appeals panel members, helping ensure parents' rights are upheld when a child is not offered a place at their preferred Catholic school.

Panel members play a vital role in considering cases where parents wish to challenge a refusal of admission. Each hearing typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, although some may take longer depending on their complexity. During the busy summer term, multiple appeals may be scheduled on the same day, and volunteers may occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days. Importantly, panel members are always able to decide their own availability, making this a flexible opportunity suited to those available during school hours. Appeals may be heard in person or via video conferencing, and volunteers can express a preference for the type of hearings they are comfortable with. All panel members will receive training from the Diocese.

To ensure a balanced and fair process, each panel is made up of both lay members, people without professional involvement in education, and education members, people with experience working in or understanding schools. Individuals cannot sit on panels for schools with which they have a personal connection, for example being a parent, governor or staff member.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is invited to contact Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service), at the Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH, by email at [ssc@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:ssc@rcdea.org.uk) or by telephone on 01508 495509.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **DECEMBER**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Pantomime Trip – Marina Theatre, Lowestoft

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm – Christmas Carol Service and Nativity

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – School Closes for the Christmas Holidays