



## THE ST. BENET'S NEWSLETTER

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Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026



### "I'M HERE"

This week at St Benet's, our worship has centred on Jesus' words, "I am the way, the truth and the life." The children have reflected on how the disciples were searching for God, not realising that Jesus Himself was right there with them. This has helped the children to think about how we can come to know God more personally through Jesus in our own lives.

Through prayer and reflection, the children have been exploring how following Jesus can guide their choices and actions each day. By living out His example, they are learning how to grow closer to God and bring moments of peace, joy and kindness into our school community.



### SUPPORT ST. BENET'S PUPILS IN THE TESCO BLUE TOKEN PROGRAMME AT BECCLES TESCO

We are delighted to share that we are taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts Blue Token Appeal. Every blue token we receive helps increase our chances of being awarded the top prize of £1,500, which would make a real difference to our school.

To make this even more exciting, we will be launching a competition for our children to see who can deposit the most blue tokens into the St Benet's collection point in the Tesco in Beccles and Tesco Express in Southwold. We ask parents and carers to support this by emailing the school office with photos and details of how many blue tokens your child has deposited. At the end of the voting round, the child who has collected the most tokens will receive a prize.

Please help us spread the word to family, friends and the wider community. The more people who choose St Benet's when they shop, the greater our chances of winning and supporting our children. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

### HEALTHY EATING

We have recently seen a large rise in the number of children coming into school with unhealthy snacks to eat at breaktime and lunchtime. This includes large/duo chocolate bars, large 'grab bag' packets of crisps and other sugary snacks. Eating a healthy balanced diet is essential to helping our children focus in class and learn. This comes against a backdrop of national data which states: **According to 2024/25 data for England, 10.5% of children in reception (ages 4-5) and 22.2% of children in Year 6 (ages 10-11) are living with obesity.**

As a result, from next week, we are going to start to implement some changes:

- Snacks eaten at breaktimes to be either a piece of fruit or vegetable. Our younger children will continue to be provided with this free of charge as part of Government funding. As always, leftovers will be made available to our older children.
- We will begin monitoring more closely the packed lunches children bring into school. Where we feel a child's lunch doesn't meet the standards as prescribed in Government Guidance (available [HERE](#)), we will add a note for your child to take home as a reminder of our expectations. Where needed, we will explore what support school can offer. Thank you for your support as we look to support our children to give them the best start in life!



The Catholic Schools of  
the Waveney Valley



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM CHANGES FOR 2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Earlier this academic year, I asked parents to contribute to a survey about our school uniform for the next academic year. This follows legislation introduced from the Government limiting the number of branded items schools can ask parents to purchase. The survey unanimously highlighted three popular items for the children to wear. These are:

- Branded jumper or cardigan
- Polo t-shirt
- PE Hoody

As a result of these changes, school shirts and branded ties will not be required from September 2026.

This means that from September 2026, our school uniform will be as follows:

***Boys/Girls – Navy blue school jumper, sky blue polo t-shirt, grey trousers/shorts/skirt and black shoes (PLAIN black trainers will also be accepted to support children running the daily mile). In the summer, girls can continue to wear a red gingham dress. PE kits will be a white t-shirt, black shorts and a school PE hoody (optional). We will be moving away from PE days and so children will be required to come into school every day in their school uniform.***

There will also be a requirement that no make-up or jewellery is worn and earrings are stud ones only. This new school uniform policy will be heavily enforced by all staff at school and we ask for your support in ensuring our children wear their school uniform with pride.

We have communicated this information to Screens who will be ensuring there is adequate stocks of school uniforms. They will also be discontinuing some additional branded items they sell and have discounted them now in case you wish to purchase any of these. Items they have include a beanie hat (£3), a coat (£15), a backpack (£7.50) and some water bottles (£2). We will continue to have a number of uniform items available in school for parents to take.

If you wish to discuss any aspects of this, please contact me in school. Thanks, Mr Kennedy

### **KEY STAGE 2 SATS – UPCOMING**

A reminder that Key Stage 2 SATs Week is fast approaching. Our Year 6 children have been working incredibly hard and we are very proud of the effort, determination and resilience they have shown in preparing for these assessments.

SATs will take place during the WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and we ask that all Year 6 pupils arrive on time each day and are well rested, having had a good breakfast. A calm and positive start to each day will really support them in doing their best.

We will continue to reassure the children that these assessments are just one way of showing what they know and we are confident they will approach the week with confidence. Thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

7 children will be making their First Holy Communion this Sunday during 9:15am Mass at St. Edmund's, Bungay. I'm sure they will have a wonderful day celebrating the receiving of this Sacrament.

### **BOHEMIAN CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT ST BENET'S**

We are pleased to share that the Bohemian University Choir will be performing at St Benet's Church, Beccles on Saturday 2nd May at 4:00pm. Admission is free, with donations gratefully received, supporting both the choir and the St Benet's Restoration Fund.

This promises to be a warm and uplifting event, with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The choir enjoy meeting their audiences, making it a lovely opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy an afternoon of music.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **MAY**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – First Holy Communion Mass at St. Edmund's, Bungay at 9:15am

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED – MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 4 Oulton Broad Water Sports Trip (Group 1)

WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATs Week

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Year 4 Oulton Broad Water Sports Trip (Group 2)  
– Holy Day of Obligation – Ascension Day

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – May Flower Procession at 2pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Year 6 Bikeability

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Year 4 Oulton Broad Water Sports Trip (Group 3)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Closes for Half-Term

### **JUNE**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – School Opens

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Residential Visit

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Swimming Lessons at Beccle's Lido for Oak and Rowan Classes