

ST. BENET'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY – WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

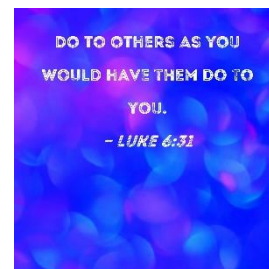


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Friday 4th September 2026



A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to St Benet's this week and to see our school community come together once again. There has been a real sense of excitement as we begin another academic year filled with opportunities to learn, grow and flourish together. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception children and, of course, our brand new Nursery children, who have made a fantastic start to life at St Benet's. We are delighted to see our youngest children becoming part of our school family and look forward to watching our numbers continue to grow over the coming months.



We will also be hosting a number of open days over the coming weeks, giving families and members of our local community the opportunity to see our new nursery facilities and find out more about what we have to offer. We are currently finalising the dates and will communicate these with you as soon as they have been confirmed. We are incredibly proud of these developments and look forward to sharing them with you.

Yesterday, we came together as a whole school for our first collective worship of the new academic year. We listened to Luke's Gospel and Jesus' important message that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. This is a wonderful message with which to begin our year. Our values of Compassion, Faith and Resilience should guide how we live, learn and treat one another each day. If we show these values to others, we can inspire them to show the same in return.

Let us make this a year where we look after one another, support each other and make our school community an amazing place to belong. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead at St Benet's!

UNIFORM

As we begin the new academic year, I wanted to remind parents and carers about our updated school uniform.

- Navy blue school jumper or cardigan
- Sky blue school polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts or skirt
- Black shoes – plain black trainers are also acceptable to support children taking part in the Daily Mile
- Blue and white gingham dress (summer months)
- PE kit: white T-shirt, black shorts and school PE hoody (optional)
- Earrings must be studs only, one per ear. Make-up and other jewellery should not be worn to school.
- Long hair must be tied up.

Children should come to school in their full school uniform every day, with PE taking place during the school day. We recognise that, with children getting changed for PE at school, some children may have concerns about changing alongside their classmates. If your child is uncomfortable or has any concerns about changing arrangements, please speak to your child's class teacher. We want every child to feel comfortable, safe and respected in school and will work with families to address any individual concerns.

Where items of uniform do go missing, we will endeavour to reunite them with their owner. This process is made easier when uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name, this can be done simply with a normal pen or permanent marker. Following the works over the summer, lost property will no longer be stored in the school hall. If you think an item may be in lost property, please go to the school office.

We ask all families to support us in ensuring that children come to school in the correct uniform each day and take pride in their appearance. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain high expectations across our school community.



The Catholic Schools of
the Waveney Valley



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

STAFFING UPDATES

At the end of last academic year, Mrs Glynis Reynolds retired from her role as school SENDCo. A position she has held for a number of years. Mrs Reynolds has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our children and her presence, knowledge and expertise in supporting our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will be greatly missed. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement and hope she keeps in touch with us in the future.

I am pleased to announce that our new Assistant Head teacher, with responsibility for SEND, will be Miss Carol Roberts. A familiar face to many at our school, Miss Roberts is an experienced SENDCo, having held the role previously at a former school, and is excited about taking on this new role. She will be working across both of our federated schools and will be available to meet with any parents who want to meet with her in the coming weeks.

I am also pleased to share that Mrs Claire Bullard has been appointed to the role of Finance Officer across both of our schools. Mrs Bullard is somebody who has been working within our Trust over the last few years and knows the systems well. She has spent the last couple of days in school and is ready to hit the ground running!

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT

With the introduction of ClassDojo! across our schools, we are updating our photographic consent permissions for all pupils. We regularly take photographs of children as they learn, celebrate their achievements and take part in school life. These photographs may be used and shared through our school communication channels and platforms, including Facebook, ClassDojo!, our school website and other school publications.

We are asking all parents and carers to complete our online photographic consent form so that we have an up-to-date record of your preferences. The form will take less than 2 minutes to complete and simply asks for some basic information, including, your child's name and class, your name and email address and your photographic consent preference. You will be asked to select one of two straightforward options:

- I consent – I give permission for photographs of my child to be taken and shared across all of the school's approved communication platforms.
- I do not consent – I do not give permission for photographs of my child to be taken and shared across the school's communication platforms.

Please complete the form using the link below, even if you have previously provided photographic consent, by Friday 11th September 2026. Until this point, the current photographic permissions received will be used.

[St Benet's Photographic Consent – Fill out form](#)

Thank you for attention to this. Your response will help us ensure that we respect your wishes while continuing to celebrate and share the wonderful experiences of our children across our school community.

INTRODUCING CLASSDOJO!

We are excited to announce the rollout of ClassDojo! across our school community from next week. ClassDojo! will provide us with a simple, secure and convenient way of communicating important information and updates from school, helping to reduce the number of emails families receive and keeping school communication together in one easy-to-access place.

ClassDojo! will also make it easier for parents and carers to communicate with us. You will be able to message your child's class teacher directly rather than needing to contact the school office first. The office will also be contactable directly through ClassDojo!, making it easier to ensure your questions or messages reach the right person. Messages can be sent at any time during the day, but please be aware that there is no expectation for school staff to respond outside of school hours. ClassDojo! will be checked at various points throughout the school day and messages will be responded to as appropriate.

Importantly, ClassDojo! is a secure, locked-down platform. Only parents and carers who have been approved by the school will be given access, helping us to ensure that communication remains safe and appropriate.

The rollout will begin next week, when invitation letters will be sent home to parents and carers with information about how to join and access ClassDojo! We are really excited about introducing ClassDojo! Across our school and hope it will make communication between home and school simpler, more efficient and more accessible for everyone. If you have any questions, concerns or difficulties accessing ClassDojo!, please speak to Mr Kennedy.

BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Breakfast Club and After School Club continue to provide fantastic support for our children and families, offering safe, welcoming and enjoyable provision around the school day. Breakfast Club runs every morning, providing children with a positive start to the day, while our After School Club runs each afternoon, giving children the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities, relax with friends and have fun after the school day has finished. Snacks and food are provided, alongside a variety of activities to keep children engaged and entertained. **Entry to our Breakfast Club will now be through the side gate next to church and up the ramp and into the old library room used for the club.**

These are really valuable facilities for our school community and provide an essential service for families, particularly for those who need flexible childcare around their working commitments. They are also an important part of our plans to ensure our schools continue to grow and flourish.

We strongly encourage families to make use of these excellent facilities. More information, including booking arrangements and costs, is available from our school offices.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – RETURNING NEXT WEEK!