

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



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GENEROUS AND JUST

This week at St Benet's, our worship has focused on the goodness and generosity of God. Through Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard, we have been thinking about fairness and how we respond when things don't always seem fair to us. We may not always understand God's ways, but we can trust that He is compassionate, just and generous. Psalm 145 reminds us that the Lord is good to all and shows compassion to all His creation.

This week's Heart of Gold Award was awarded for Justice, providing a wonderful link to our Gospel this week. We celebrated children who have demonstrated fairness, stood up for what is right and shown care and respect for others. This gives us an important message to carry into our everyday lives. We can sometimes be quick to compare what we have with what others have, but Jesus encourages us to look beyond ourselves and recognise the needs of those around us. Generosity, kindness and compassion can transform the way we live together as a school community.



Our values of Faith, Compassion and Resilience give us a strong foundation for this. Let us have faith in God's goodness, show compassion towards others and have the resilience to respond positively when things don't go our way. God's love is greater than we can fully understand.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As we are a few weeks into our new school year, I want to highlight the importance of establishing positive routines to help every child get the very best from their time at school. Our whole-school attendance target is 97% and we would really appreciate your support in helping us achieve this. Being in school every day means children can learn, spend time with their friends and take part in the activities and experiences that make school such an important part of their lives. For our younger children especially, they are developing vital learning, social and independence skills every day.

The first few days and weeks are particularly important as children settle into new routines, build relationships and begin their learning straight away. Missing even a small number of days can mean missing important learning and experiences. Improving attendance was something we started to work on last year and something which continues this year. Even though we've only been back a couple of weeks, I've held meetings with parents to stress the importance of school attendance and the options open to us as a school should attendance drop below our target.

Every day counts. Let's work together to give every child the best possible start to the year and aim for 97% attendance across our school.

PHONICS READING CAFES

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our Phonics Reading Cafés with Miss Lyons. These sessions are a great opportunity to find out more about how we teach phonics and early reading at St Benet's and, importantly, how you can support your child at home.

Reception – Thursday 1 October, 8:45–9:30am
Year 1 – Thursday 8 October, 8:45–9:30am

We would love to see as many parents and carers as possible. The sessions will provide a useful insight into our approach to phonics and give you practical ideas to help your child develop their reading skills at home.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS

These are being finalised this week and will be shared via ClassDojo! on Monday.



The Catholic Schools of
the Waveney Valley



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – YEAR 6 MOVING TO YEAR 7

If your child is currently in Year 6, it is now time to start thinking about which secondary school you would like them to attend from September 2027. Suffolk County Council will publish all the information you need to help you make your decision, including details of the application process and available schools, from 12 September 2026.

The deadline for submitting your application is Saturday 31 October 2026. It is important to apply by this date, as late applications may reduce your chances of being offered a place at your preferred school. Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the application process and key deadlines and submit your application on time.

You can find all the information you need and apply online at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL – OCTOBER OPEN DAY

Notre Dame High School will be opening its doors to families considering a place for their children in October 2026. The Open Days are a great opportunity for prospective pupils and their parents or carers to visit the school, meet staff and get a feel for what day-to-day life is really like at Notre Dame. Our school has been allocated the following visit time:

Monday 5 October – 1:45pm (all tours start from the Main Reception)

Any parents of children in Year 6 wanting to take their child to this event should inform the school office so that we can make sure your child is ready to be collected at lunchtime to get there in time for the tour. If you have any questions about the Open Days, please contact the Pastoral Team on 01603 611431 and for enquiries about Lower School admissions, please contact admissions@ndhs.org.uk.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

There have been some important changes to **Free School Meals (FSM)** and **Pupil Premium** from September 2026. Those families who have been affected should have been contacted by school but we want to make sure that all families are aware of the support that may be available to them.

The government has expanded Free School Meal eligibility so that children in households receiving Universal Credit can now be entitled to a free school meal, regardless of household earnings. There are now two categories of Free School Meals:

- **Targeted Free School Meals** - for families receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. In addition to free school meals, children in this category attract Pupil Premium funding for their school.
- **Expanded Free School Meals** - for families receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings above £7,400. Children in this category are entitled to a free school meal but do not attract Pupil Premium funding.

Could your child be eligible?

If your circumstances have changed or you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, we encourage you to check your eligibility. Even if your child is already receiving a free meal, it is important that your eligibility is checked under the new arrangements as you may be eligible for more funding/support. You can find out more information and check whether your child may be eligible through the government website: [Check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals - GOV.UK](#)

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please check rather than assume you are not eligible. If you need any help with the application or would like to discuss the additional support available through school, please contact the school office.

CLASS DOJO

Email reminders through the ClassDojo! platform have been sent out today to those parents who haven't completed this yet. Next week, we will be moving the majority of our communication onto ClassDojo! so please make sure you are registered and linked to your child's class. Please contact school if you have any issues downloading the app and registering for your child's class.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT – REMINDER

If you haven't completed yet, you can access the form here: [St Benet's Photographic Consent – Fill out form](#)
We've helped a couple of parents this week who haven't been able to complete it so please let us know if you are having any issues.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME – FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you have a child in Years 3–6, you may wish to consider enrolling them in the parish's Sacramental Preparation Programme for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2027. If you would like your child to take part or would like to learn more, please e-mail Fr. Simon (simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk) or complete a yellow enrolment form, available at the back of the church.

THE BIG LUNCH – FREE SCHOOL LUNCH FOR ALL CHILDREN!

We are delighted to let families know that, as part of The Big Lunch campaign, Aspens will be fully funding all children's school lunches on Thursday 1st October 2026. All you need to do is pre-order your child's chosen meal via the school office no later than Friday 25th September.

On the menu:

- Crispy breaded chicken nuggets with chips and beans
- Vegetable fingers with chips and beans
- Chocolate brownie

FREE FAMILY MATHS WORKSHOP

Next week, we will send out information about a FREE family maths workshop being run in school by Realise Futures. The session will explore fun and practical ways to support your child's maths skills through games, crafts and activities.

Tuesday 13th October

- EYFS & KS1 (Y R–2): 9.00–11.00am
- KS2 (Y3–6): 1.00–3.00pm

Places will be limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Full details and booking information will be sent to families next week.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Monday 21st – Beccles High School to visit Year 6

Wednesday 23rd – No Football Club with Darrell

Friday 25th – Diocesan Schools Mass

OCTOBER

Friday 2nd – Oak Class Mass at 11am

Friday 9th – Rowan Class Mass at 11am

Friday 16th – Beech Class Mass at 11am

Thursday 22nd – Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)
– School Closes for Half-Term

More dates to be added in the coming weeks, including:

- Class Structure Drop-in opportunity with Mr Kennedy
- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- PTFA Events