

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



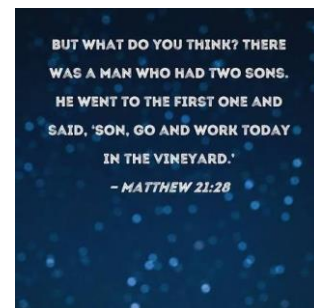
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Monday 28th September 2026



ACTIONS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Last week at St Benet's, our Gospel reflection has encouraged us to think about the difference between what we say and what we do. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of two sons who are asked by their father to do something. One says no but later changes his mind and does what his father asks, while the other says yes but does not follow through. Jesus reminds us that it is our actions that truly demonstrate who we are.

This is an important message for us all. It is easy to say that we will be kind, helpful or supportive, but it is through our actions that we show these qualities to others. St Paul's message to the Philippians encourages us to live with the same love and compassion as Christ, helping, encouraging and blessing those around us.



Our values of Faith, Compassion and Resilience give us a wonderful guide. Let us not only talk about these values but live them out every day – in our classrooms, on the playground and in the way we treat every member of our school community. As we continue through the term, let our actions speak louder than our words and let us encourage one another to follow the example of Jesus.

PUPIL CONTACT INFORMATION

A reminder that Pupil Contact Information Sheets were sent home last week. Please take a few minutes to check the information carefully and make sure that all details are accurate and up to date. We ask that you pay particular attention to any highlighted information and add any missing details. For safeguarding purposes, we also ask that we have two emergency contacts for each child, including addresses where possible. If only one emergency contact is currently listed, please add an additional contact. Thank you for helping us to keep our records accurate and ensuring that we can contact you quickly when needed.

Please return your completed form to school by Friday 2 October 2026.

PHONICS READING CAFES - REMINDER

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.

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



The Catholic Schools of
the Waveney Valley



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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.

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 so please let us know if you are having any issues. Any child who hasn't had the form completed on their behalf by Friday 2nd October, will be recorded as not having photographic permissions

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK - 5-9 OCTOBER

Next week is Cycle to School Week, and we are delighted to be taking part in the East Suffolk Cycle to School Week Challenge. We know that many of our children already cycle or scoot to school, which is fantastic. The challenge is a great opportunity to celebrate this and encourage even more children to enjoy being active on their journeys to and from school. Walking and wheeling count too!

Throughout the week, children will be able to record the time they spend cycling, scooting, walking or wheeling. Every 15 minutes of activity earns a square on the challenge poster, with classes and groups working together to see how many minutes of active travel they can clock up. We will be talking to the children about the challenge in school this week so that everyone knows how they can get involved.

BARSHAM VALE COMMUNITY DROP-INS

The team at Hopkins Homes' Barsham Vale development are also supporting Cycle to School Week by hosting three free community drop-in sessions at their marketing suite on London Road, Beccles. These are taking place on:

- Monday 5 October, 3.00-4.30pm
- Thursday 8 October, 3.00-4.30pm
- Friday 9 October, 3.00-4.30pm

Families are welcome to drop in on their way home from school, whether they are cycling, scooting or walking. There will be free after-school refreshments and high-vis snap bands for children to help improve their visibility as the autumn evenings become darker. There is no need to book. We hope lots of our families will get involved and have fun being active together during Cycle to School Week!

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 through the usual school meal ordering system or 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

ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION 2026/27

Do you have a budding photographer at home? The Rotary Young Photographer Competition is inviting young people to get creative with this year's theme: 'Friendship'. Children from school can enter under the following two age categories:

- Junior: 10 years and under
- Intermediate: 11–13 years

Photographs will be judged on technical merit, content and composition, imagination and style, and how well they capture the theme. The competition runs through local, district and national stages, with winning entries progressing through the competition. All participants receive a certificate and prizes will be awarded for the two best entries in each age category at the local stage. Entry deadline: 31 December 2026

For full competition rules, entry forms and an information pack, please contact the Rotary Passport Club of East Anglia at rotaryfriends1117@gmail.com.

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.

Thursday 15th 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

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st – Phonics Reading Café for Reception Parents from 8:45am – 9:30am

Friday 2nd – Oak Class Mass at 11am

Thursday 8th – Phonics Reading Cafe for Year 1 Parents from 8:45am – 9:30am

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