

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



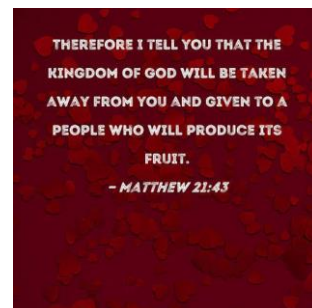
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Friday 2nd October 2026



LOVE AND RESPECT

This week at St Benet's, our Gospel reflection has focused on Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard and the important message of love and respect. Jesus reminds us that we are called to listen to His message, accept His love and share that love with others.

Our values of Faith, Compassion and Resilience help us to do this. We show our faith by listening to God's word and putting it into action, our compassion by treating others with love and respect and our resilience by continuing to make positive choices even when things are difficult. As we move through the autumn term, let us remember that our faith is something we live, practise and share. Through our words, actions and prayers, we can help to make St Benet's a community where everyone feels valued, respected and loved.



Next week, we will continue our journey through the Gospel with the story of the wedding feast and Jesus' invitation to say 'Yes!' to God through our choices, words and actions. Heart of Gold next week will be awarded for Justice.

NEW SCHOOL LOGO

Last academic year, a project was led to revise our school vision, mission and values. Our children, staff, you as parents, our Governors and Trust were all consulted to create our new version. This was shared with you last academic year and is on our school website. As a result of this work, our old tree logo needed to be reimagined to reflect the changes we had made. Towards the end of last academic year, we launched a competition across both schools to design a new logo. We had lots of great designs put forward for selection and so we decided to combine some of the best ideas together to create our new version.



Our new logo features our school values, recognises that we are part of a federation of two schools (St. Benet's represented by the raven which accompanied St. Benedict and St. Edmund's symbolised by a crown), shows our faith through the dove depicting the Holy Spirit and is based around a heart of gold which grows from a tree. The background represents the Waveney Valley with the river running through it.

I want to thank all our children who took the time to share their suggestions and I hope they, and you, feel the new logo represents the important elements of our two federated schools. The logo will now be shared on our school website and will be present on a number of school documents and policies moving forward.

WATER BOTTLES IN SCHOOL

Please can all children be sent into school with a water bottle they can refill from our water dispenser in school. We are no longer providing single-use plastic cups for the children to use. These bottles can be taken home to be washed on a regular basis. Any parents having difficulties providing a water bottle, please let school know.

PHONICS READING CAFES - REMINDER

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to a Phonics Reading Café for Year 1 parents next week 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. The session will take place from 8:45 – 9:30am on Thursday 8th October in school.

We would love to see as many parents and carers as possible so you are in the best position possible to support your child moving forward.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

PUPIL CONTACT INFORMATION

A reminder that the deadline for returning the Pupil Contact Information Sheets is today. If you haven't submitted yours, please can we ask you to do this asap to reduce the administrative burden on our office staff who will have to chase up missing forms.

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 – DEADLINE TO COMPLETE – FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

The deadline to complete the photographic consent form is today. If the form hasn't been completed for your child, they will be noted as not having photographic permissions and so won't appear on any of our platforms.

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.

FREE FAMILY MATHS WORKSHOP

Information was sent out this week 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 were posted on Dojo this week.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

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

– Harvest Assembly (inc. Celebration Assembly) at 2:30pm

Tuesday 20th – The Boy Who Cried Wolf Performance for the Whole School

– Parent/Teacher Meetings

Wednesday 21st – PTFA Spooky Bake Sale after school

Thursday 22nd – Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)

– School Closes for Half-Term

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd – School Opens