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

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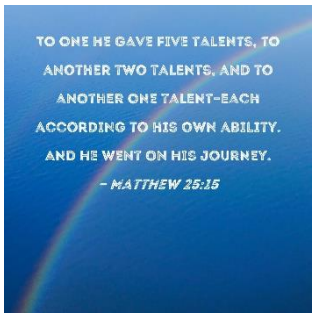
Friday 13th November 2026

UNIQUE GIFTS



This week at St Benet's, we have been reflecting on Jesus' Parable of the Talents and thinking about the special gifts and talents that each of us has been given by God. We are all unique and have something wonderful to offer the world. Whether it is through our creativity, sporting ability, kindness, determination or the way we care for others, God encourages us to recognise our gifts and use them to make a positive difference.

Our school values of Faith, Compassion and Resilience remind us how we can put these gifts into practice. We should have faith in our abilities, show compassion by using our talents to help others and demonstrate resilience by continuing to develop and make the most of the opportunities we are given. It is important that we recognise our own gifts but also celebrate and encourage the talents we see in others.

REMEMBERING THOSE WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS

Next Friday, 20 November at 6:00pm, there will be a special Mass of Remembrance to remember family members and friends who are no longer with us. Today, children will be bringing home a special star on which they can write the names of those they wish to remember. Please return these stars to school before next Friday, 20 November. They will then be placed in a basket and carried to the altar during the Offertory as part of our Mass.

If your child would be willing to attend the Mass and help carry the baskets to the altar, please contact the school office to let us know. We look forward to being a part of this special occasion.

PANTOMIME TRIP!!

A quick reminder that our whole school will be joining our federated school, St Edmund's, to watch the pantomime Snow White at the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft on Friday 11th December. The trip is now live on Wisepay and tickets can be booked at a cost of approximately £16.50 per child. Thank you to those who have already paid. The actual cost of the trip would be considerably higher, particularly when taking account of the transport costs. However, our wonderful PTA have generously agreed to heavily subsidise the transport element, helping us to keep the cost as low as possible for families. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and generosity.

We appreciate that this can be an expensive time of year for families, so payment plans are available through Wisepay to help spread the cost over the coming weeks. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the arrangements, please speak to Mr Kennedy. We are really looking forward to being a part of this event and sharing it with St Edmund's once again – kicking off our Christmas celebrations together!

ST. BENET'S IS A PARKRUN PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Junior parkrun is a fun, free, weekly 2k event for children aged 4–14 and their families. You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or cheer and everyone is welcome. The parkrun takes place every Sunday morning on Beccles Common at 9am but on Sunday 29th November, we are hoping as many parents and pupils from St. Benet's will join Mr Kennedy and Mrs Huxtable down at the common to take part together.

As a parkrun primary school, we're encouraging our pupils and families to get active together and discover their local junior parkrun. If it is your child's first time, find out more and register for free at juniorparkrun.com

Come along, give it a go and let's enjoy junior parkrun together!
Kind regards, Mr Kennedy and Mrs Huxtable

STAY AND PRAY SESSIONS

Dates for these have now been added to the Diary Dates section of our school newsletter.

Artsmark Silver Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

TRUST-WIDE CONSULTATION – FUTURE SCHOOL TERM DATES

A trust-wide consultation regarding proposed changes to future school term dates, including an amendment to the dates for the 2027–2028 academic year, was shared with parents and carers via Class Dojo last week. We are keen to hear the views of our school community and would encourage all parents and carers to take the time to read the proposal and share their feedback.

The consultation will close on Monday 23 November. The outcome will be communicated before the end of term. Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important consultation.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE – JANUARY STARTERS

We are delighted that our Nursery provision continues to grow and we are looking forward to welcoming a new group of children in January. We currently have nursery places available and children who have turned 3 since September may now be eligible for their 15 hours of funded early education.

If you know of any families who may be interested in a nursery place for their child, please encourage them to get in touch with the school office to find out more or arrange a visit. We would love to welcome more children into our school family and continue to see our Nursery flourish!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was a privilege to attend the Remembrance Sunday service at the cenotaph on Sunday, accompanied by two pupils from our school. We observed the 2 minutes silence and then laid a wreath on behalf of our school community. Our two pupils represented the school with pride and respect. Lots of our pupils attended the service as well representing the different organisations they are a part of outside of school.

ATTENDANCE LETTERS

Schools are required to follow national attendance guidance which places a clear duty on us to monitor attendance closely and to take action when a child's attendance gives cause for concern. When a child is identified as being persistently absent, we are required to contact parents to discuss this and to offer support where appropriate. As part of this process, families may receive a letter from school next week to formally notify them that attendance has fallen below the expected level. This is not intended to be punitive, but to ensure that concerns are shared clearly and early so that we can work together to improve attendance and support the child's wellbeing and learning.

We value our partnership with parents and appreciate your understanding that these steps are part of our statutory responsibility. By working together, we can help ensure every child is in school regularly and able to make the most of their education.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

WB Monday 16th – Assessment Week
Friday 20th –Mass of Remembrance at St. Benet's Church to Remember Those We Hold in Our Hearts at 6pm
Monday 23rd – Future School Dates Consultation Closes
Friday 27th – Wear Purple Day to mark the start of Advent
Monday 30th – Hungate Christmas Tree visit (am)
– Beech Class Stay and Pray at 2:30pm

DECEMBER

Monday 7th – Rowan Class Stay and Pray at 2:30pm
Tuesday 8th – Mini Vinnies to visit local Care Home to sing Carols
Wednesday 9th – Whole School Advent Mass at 10am
Thursday 10th – Oak Class Stay and Pray at 2:30pm
Friday 11th – Snow White Panto Visit to the Marina Theatre
Tuesday 15th –Whole School Nativity at 2pm
Wednesday 16th – Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th – PTFA Film Night
Friday 18th – School Closes for Christmas Holidays