



St Benet's Catholic Primary School

'A happy and holy place of learning and the centre of a thriving community'

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Newsletter: **Friday 5th July**
2024

Head teacher News

Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

The theme for this week and last week has definitely been **SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS!** Our children have participated in many activities involving Street Dance, Street Games, Basketball, Quidditch, Rugby and a lot more! The annual Sports Days for both Early Years and Y1-6 were a brilliant celebration of sport and thank you to everyone who came along to cheer on our children. Well done to **St Bede's** House team for winning this year...fantastic result! And thanks for the peer pressure for the teacher's race!!



Just a couple of reminders from school:

Book Fair

Our book fair has started and shall be available in Caroline's Library every night after school until Wednesday 10th July. There are some lovely new reads, perfect for the summer holidays so please get yourself along!

Y6 SATS Results

The Y6 SATS results shall be available on Tuesday. As the Y6 children are in London, they shall be sent to parents on Thursday 11th July.

Y4 Going Forth Mass

Our Y4 children and parents shall be celebrating their Going Forth Mass with Fr Martin and Deacon Peter on Thursday 11th July in the school hall. Children should come to school dressed in their special outfits and bring their school uniform with them to change into after Mass. The Mass shall start at 9:15am and is for Y4 children and families only.

Annual Reports

The children's annual reports shall be sent to all families via Arbor next Friday 12th July. They shall be emailed to parents this year.

Final Week Events:

Tues 16th July – Choir Concert, 5pm in the school hall

Wed 17th July – Y6's performance of The Tempest, 2pm in the school hall

Thurs 18th July – Leaver's Mass and presentation, 9:15am in the school hall

Thurs 18th July – Friends of St Benet's Summer Disco (after school)

Fri 19th July – Teddy Bears Picnic – all children to bring a packed lunch to eat at lunchtime on the school field (see below)

Fri 19th July – Fond Farewell- please join us on the school playground at 3:15pm as we say Goodbye to our Y6 and any staff leaving St Benet's this summer.

Kind regards,
Catherine Young
Head teacher

School Ties

Our children look so smart in their full school uniform including their school ties. From September, school ties will be compulsory if children are wearing a shirt or a polo-shirt. Previously, the rule has always been that the infants wear a tie with elastic and the juniors would wear a traditional tie. However, from September, if your child is wearing a polo shirt, they need to wear an elastic tie. We have sampled this with our gorgeous children (*see photo*) and it looks super smart! Therefore, please ensure that if your child is wearing a polo shirt, they are also wearing an elastic tie. If your child is wearing a long-sleeved or short sleeved shirt and they are a junior, they can wear the traditional tie or the elastic tie will also suffice. School ties can be purchased for £4 from our uniform supplier, but we also have lots in school so please pop into the office should you require one.



Mobile Phone Safety and Supervision

We have had some further incidents reported to school about some of our older children sending inappropriate text messages to each other whilst at home. At school, we can only reiterate our online safety messages to the children and continue to embed this learning into our curriculum. Therefore, please can we ask parents to support us with this safety message and ensure that children are supervised when using their mobile phones. For further information and parental guidance, please visit [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)



Childcare Vouchers for Out of School Hours Provision

We are now able to accept payment for Breakfast club and Wraparound care. We are currently registered with **Fideliti** and **Kiddivouchers**, but if you use another provider, please contact the office and we can look into registering with them too.



Statements to Live By

This week's Statement to Live By (that we introduce to the children each week in our Monday Celebration of the Word) is:

'I try to keep going when things are difficult and not give up'

This has linked perfectly to Sports Week. At home, you could talk to your children about what this means as well as the words *resilience, perseverance, challenge*.



Leave of Absence Requests- Changes from September 2024

In line with our Trust attendance policy and changes to the Department for Education's Attendance strategy, from September 2024, Fixed Penalty Notices shall be issued at St Benet's for any leave of absence requests if parents meet the threshold * The changes that are coming into effect can be found below. In summary, if a child is absent for 5 days (10 sessions) within a 10 school week period for unauthorised absence (ie: holiday) each parent will be issued with a £160 penalty notice. If this is paid within the first 21 days, this shall be reduced to £80. Further information can be found below:

**This will also apply to any holiday leave of absence requests we have already received for next academic year.*



Fixed Penalty Notices for irregular attendance at school Important information for parents

1 Overview

Penalty notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution where parents have failed to ensure their child attends school regularly. They can be used in cases where absence has not been authorised by a head teacher.

The notices are used to prevent the need for court action, for example, when support has not been engaged with or is not appropriate (for example, leave of absence during term time). **Changes from September 2024 are shown below.**

2 Leave

Head Teachers are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation **would not** constitute an exceptional circumstance.

3 Absence

A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if there are **5 days / 10 sessions** of absence in a period of **10 school weeks** (where absence has not been authorised).

A notice may be issued where the 5-day level of absence has not been reached, for example, if there are several periods of leave.

4 Amount

Within a 3-year period:

The first penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued. **Legal action** may result (for example, prosecution).

For further information please see Durham County Council website page on school attendance or email AIT@durham.gov.uk

Reception Celebration of the Word

Reception parents, please join us at **9am next Friday 12th July** for the Celebration of the Word in the Reception classroom.



Punctuality Reminder

Just a gentle reminder, following on from the text message sent lately, that the bell goes at 8:55am and we still have children coming in late.

Please ensure that your child is in school before the bell so they do not miss vital learning time.

