



ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 8th September 2023

Please see our PTFA Facebook Page

Contact school: school164@stbens.school

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St. Ben's School Christian Values: *Community, Resilience and Kindness*

WELCOME BACK!

We've had a really great start to the academic year with a scorching three days in the classroom and outside. A very warm welcome to our new Year 3's who have settled in brilliantly and also to the many children joining us from other schools (and even other countries); it's great to be back! Next week is our first full week and then clubs will start the week after (w/b 18th September).

HOMEWORK/READING RECORD CHECKS

Our school approach to homework is that we prioritise reading. We believe that the ability to read unlocks so many things in life and allows children to access all other areas of the curriculum. A reminder of our expectations regarding reading – we expect every child to read at least 4x a week at home and for an adult to sign their reading record. Every child who hands in a signed reading record that shows they have done this will get an extra break on a Friday afternoon. Those who have not will have the opportunity for an extra read at this time. Please help to support your child with this. More on this in the coming weeks...

ST. BEN'S NEEDS YOU!

Can you help us? We are always looking for volunteers to support the school in different ways. Could you be our next?

- **Parent Governor?**
- **Member of the PTFA?**
- **Volunteer reader?**
- **Volunteer TA?**



If you are interested in finding out more, why not contact the office or Mr Ranger – either via Class Dojo, or on (01458) 831811

CLUBS START on 18th SEPT

Please look out for autumn Clubs' letter, which your child should bring home today. We have a fabulous range of clubs this term, including Nature Club, Art Club, Coding, Spanish, Netball, Glee, Choir and Football and the return of the brilliant Drama Club. While there is a charge for Drama, it has been an incredibly popular choice over the years and has been the perfect club for our aspiring actors. Maxine Ridout who runs the club, is delighted to be back and has very generously subsidised the cost as she loves teaching at St. Ben's – it is £4.50 per session (or £2.25 for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant). Maxine will be running taster sessions in school-time next Monday and Tuesday. We would love to sign each child up to at least one club this term, so get choosing!

SCHOOL PANTRY

Please take advantage of our school pantry, which is situated just inside the front door. Our aim is that no-one in our school community should be hungry. Please just help yourself to any food items that may help to put a meal on your family's table. There is no maximum amount and bags are there, ready to be filled.

If there is an item you would like to see in the food pantry, why not let us know – simply send a Class Dojo message to Mr Ranger or the Office Team.

The only way we will know the pantry is a success is if we see empty shelves, so please make use of it!



END OF DAY COLLECTION - A REQUEST

As we get to know new parents and carers, could we please ask that adults collecting Year 3 and Year 4 pupils at the end of the day come down to the playground to collect their child/ren when the gates open at 3:10pm; this will make collection safer and easier.

ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Headteacher's Award</u>	<u>Teacher's Award</u>
Cats:	Leilani: for being a resilient tortoise and settling in to Year 3.	To Cat Class: for a fantastic start to Year 3!
Unicorns:	Libby: for setting a positive example in her first few days.	All of Unicorn Class: for an amazing start to St Ben's.
Chameleons:	Mark: for being a supportive friend and helping others.	Leo: for persevering in his drawing.
Owls:	Derek: super hard work and focus writing Three Little Pig Story.	Faye: for super writing our Three Little Pigs story.
Spiders:	Jamie: for starting Year 5 with such a confident and kind attitude.	Nellie: for making such an excellent start to Year 5 in a new school.
Tortoises:	Nathan: for resilience – trying his best in his work despite having a damaged arm.	Everyone in Tortoise Class: for a brilliant start to the new year – it's a pleasure working with you.
Leopards:	Ezmay: for being a great friend to help new pupils settle into life at St Ben's!	Max: for being focussed and making good learning choices.
Peacocks:	Alex: for showing an excellent attitude towards his learning.	Leo: for an excellent contribution in class.
<u>Book Battle Champs</u>	Each week we will report on what percentage of children in each class have read at least 4 x a week at home (and had their record signed). These children will get an extra break on a Friday afternoon.	
<u>Attendance Champs</u>	Our attendance champs this week are Unicorn Class, with a perfect 100%!! Well done, Unicorns, you get a well-deserved extra break next week.	

REMINDER: WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. Please consider this when making your child's lunch as we have a number of children with serious nut allergies.

PUTTING THE 'P' IN PTFA

We are seeking more parents to be part of our PTFA team – after a record-breaking BenFest last year, we are keen to raise even more money towards our play equipment fund and we'd love you to be part of our fabulous team. Why not come along to our PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wed 27th Sept at 2pm – we will finish by collection time!

PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT- SIGN UP NOW FOR MONEY OFF!!

The Pupil Premium Grant is government funding available to schools for any eligible pupils.

Approximately 35% of our current pupils are already eligible, but we want to make sure that as many children can benefit as possible.

The money is paid to the school and allows us to subsidise many things at school including trips, uniform, events and activities. It may also mean your child can access extra support with academic and cultural opportunities.

We are aware that circumstances are changing for many families. If you think you may be eligible, we'd love to hear from you; please call the office, or Mr Ranger for an application form (this is one side of A4 and very simple to complete!).

What are you up to?

A reminder that we have a weekly newsletter feature on what our pupils are doing out of school. Are you part of a sports club? Do you have a hobby? Are you a baker or a crafter, a sewer or a gardener? Have you raised money or helped your community? Have you done anything that you would like the school community to know about?

All parents/carers need to do is send a few words and a photo to Mr Ranger via Class Dojo and their child could be the star of next week's newsletter.

Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event/Activity:
Monday 18 th Sept	Clubs begin – please sign your child up for at least one club!
Wed 27 th Sept at 2pm	PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the STEM Room We would love to see as many parents/carers as possible as we look to make this our best ever year for fund-raising
Friday 20 th Oct	Break up for half term
Monday 30 th October	INSET Day: Teacher training day – school closed to pupils.
Tuesday 31 st October	Pupils return to school after half term.