

Our Vision and Ethos

As part of 'Life in all its fullness, (John 10:10), the community of St Benedict's C of E VA Junior School nurture and educate the whole child. We encourage our pupils to hope and dream for a bright future and, within our Christian environment, we foster a sense of self-belief in our pupils, promoting positive mental health and well-being. We celebrate all participation and achievements; academic, sporting, creative and community.

Our School's Christian Ethos in Action

We are keen that this ethos is enacted in our daily lives at St. Benedict's and we aim to give our pupils plenty of practical and spiritual opportunities to live this vision. Here are some examples...

Raised Beds for Happy Heads

As a school at the centre of its community, we are keen to promote wellbeing across Glastonbury and we have embarked on a project to do just this... Raised Beds for Happy Heads is our way of bringing a smile and a splash of colour to Glastonbury. We are building, plant up and maintain raised beds at four sites around town, with the hope that they will be a riot of colour every year, improving community wellbeing and promoting a sense of wonder in God's creation. We are very grateful to the Glastonbury in Bloom committee who funded the project.

The raised beds were built by our groundsman, Rich Daniels, and can be seen in the following locations:

- St. Benedict's Church,
- The GP Surgery on Feversham Lane,
- The United Reform Church,
- Heritage Court.

Pupils regularly tend to the raised beds, helping to foster in them a sense of service – giving of oneself to improve the lives of others. School Value: Community.



Compassion for others in difficult times

The global pandemic brought with it increased levels of anxiety and many people in our community struggled with poor mental health. Large numbers of people found themselves isolated and lonely. The compassionate pupils and staff at St. Benedict's saw this as an opportunity to help others in Glastonbury and this has continued post-pandemic. One example is the excellent link we have with the local care home, St. Benedict's. Our pupils have been involved in a number of projects with the Care Home and we have a thriving link between their events team and our Nurture Groups. Recent activities have included our pupils making a banner for the Care Home to celebrate the King's Coronation (we even received a letter of thanks from His Majesty), making a banner for Remembrance and making Christmas decorations. In addition our Year 5 Mini-Police have run Bingo sessions for the residents. We also invite residents to our plays and performances, including Harvest Festival, our Year 3 Nativity and our Christmas Carol Concert. In return, we have received lovely messages of thanks from the residents who light up when they see the children. The Care Home also kindly donated a food parcel to our Harvest collection.

School Values: Community and Kindness



World Garden

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Audrey Hepburn

Part of our ethos is to instill in our pupils a sense of hope and there can be no more hopeful act than to create a garden – something that we work hard towards that will bloom in the future. We are currently creating a World Garden and are presently working on Phase 2, our Peace Garden. Phase 1 was our 'Growing Garden' - each year group now has a raised bed to plant for the future, as well as a raised bed for our Nurture Group and one for the staff team. The husband of one of our governors very kindly created marker posts for the children to identify their raised beds.

Last summer we were even nominated for a prize by the South-West in Bloom team and came second in the entire South-West! Last year, we had groups of pupils cutting flowers to create vases for each class, the school office and the Staff Room. We even made arrangements to give to staff as a thank you. Our next project is to grow flowers for a staff member's wedding! We have also had a veg give-away, with tomato and courgette plants given to families to continue our great work at home...

School Values: Community and Resilience



Spreading joy in our community:

As part of our wellbeing week, Year 3 pupils made pom-poms with a message of love/and or hope for each lucky recipient. They tied them to the school railings to warm the hearts of astonished parents and passers-by.



Mini-Police develop empathy for vulnerable members of society:

Our Mini-Police officers have been finding out what it means to really serve the community. In previous years they completed dementia training and undertook first aid training – helping them to be more compassionate, understanding members of the community. This year they are conducting a 'Bingo' session at St. Benedict's Care Home, bringing a smile to the faces of local members of the community. Not content with this, members of the mini-police conducted a litter pick at local park, Tor Leisure, and also represented the school in the Remembrance Day procession, laying a wreath on behalf of the school. ***School Values: Community and Kindness***



Spreading Glee wherever they go:

Our Glee Club, run by musical Teaching Assistant, Becky Greuter, are always keen to bring a smile to faces with their brilliant versions of pop and rock songs. Keen to spread some Christmas cheer, they visited local care home, St. Benedict's to give a performance for residents to remember. The care home manager told us afterwards that one of the residents had been clapping along and they had never seen her engage like that before!

Another show is planned soon...

School Value: Community



Helping those less fortunate than ourselves:

Glastonbury may have its own troubles to deal with, but there are no more generous people than our parents and pupils. As a school community, we support a number of charities, including our local foodbank, Children in Need and Ups and Downs, a local Down's Syndrome Charity, inspired by one of our families.

We encourage and support our pupils to fund-raise, and this has resulted in a number of inspiring events, including a day of activities organized by a team of Year 6 girls to raise money for Cancer Research as it was a disease touching all their lives.

School Values: Community, Resilience and Kindness



'Wear bright socks to school day' – a fund-raiser for 'Ups and Downs', inspired by one of our pupils who has Down's Syndrome.



Our familiar, furry friend. St. Ben's are always amongst the most generous schools in Somerset – just ask Pudsey!