



ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 10th January 2025

Please see our PTFA Facebook Page

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Despite the frosty weather this week, it's a very warm welcome back to school for the beginning of our Spring Term.

A reminder that clubs start next week – a letter has gone home this week with details. We are very excited to be offering a wonderfully broad range of clubs, as ever, including two new clubs: Page Turners Book Club with Mrs Stout and our first Martial Arts Club run by Jane and Phil Churchill.

As a school, our multi-talented staff strive hard to offer a broad and interesting range of clubs.

Please take advantage of this and try to encourage your child to sign up for at least one club this term.

Please note there will be no clubs (other than Drama and Martial Arts) on w/b 17th March, as this will be Parents' Evening week.

MUSICAL INSPIRATION

On Friday our Hall was filled with sweet sounds as we were joined by members of Somerset Music. The aim was simply to inspire children to listen to and play music. Huge thanks to Anna, Martha and Nicola and our very own Mrs Coton. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument, let us know and we'll see if we can help.



SCHOOL COUNCIL JUDGES QUIET AREA DESIGNS

This week, our School Council met with members of staff and governors to judge the Quiet Area design competition. They were on the look-out for ideas which we can turn into reality to transform our Quiet Area. The panel selected two designs from each year group and judge Ms Greuter will now create a grand-design encompassing all the judges favourite ideas. Once this design is complete, we will announce the children whose designs we selected.

Thank you to every child (and one parent) who entered – your ideas and artwork were fantastic! Thanks to the excellent School Council who had very clear thoughts on what they wish to see.

Next, we will be looking for carpenters and anyone with gardening/building skills to create our new Quiet Area. Please let us know if you are able to help...



ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

| <u>Class:</u> | <u>Headteacher's Award</u> | <u>Teacher's Award</u> |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Cats: | Loki: for making a real effort to be polite in class! | Freddie: for always having good manners! |
| Unicorns: | Raul: for having impeccable manners all of the time. | AH: for being polite and helpful. |
| Chameleons: | Libby: showing respect and kindness to all members of the school community. | Kobi: for superb manners – always holding the door open for others! |
| Owls: | Cave: for being kind and considerate and polite to all. | Daronn: for being polite and courteous. |
| Spiders: | Kiyo: for showing excellent manners in and out of the classroom. | Blossom: for always being polite to teachers and her peers! |
| Tortoises: | Willow: for a really positive start to the new term. | Courtney: for hard work and resilience in all her learning. |
| Leopards: | Mason Ti: for always being polite and using his manners to all. | Amelia: for always using her manners. |
| Peacocks: | Blaize: for always being willing to help others. | Mason Tr: for excellent perseverance in maths. |
| <u>Class Dojo Champs</u> | This week's champions are Unicorn Class with 36.3 points per child and they get an extra break next week. Well done, Unicorns! | |
| <u>Attendance Champs</u> | This week's champions are Cat Class with 97.8% attendance. Well done Cats, you get an extra break next week! | |
| <u>Book Battle Champs</u> | This week the following % of children managed to read 4 x a week at home: Cat – 93% Unicorn - 80% , Owl - 89% , Chameleon - 93% Tortoise –62% , Spider – 83% , Leopard - 76% , Peacock - 86% Meaning that the first champions of 2025 are Cat and Chameleon Classes with 93%! Well done to both classes! | |
| <u>Values'</u> | Ruby: showing kindness and caring; a mature manner to all her peers and teachers. Holly: for empathizing with others and showing kindness to all. | |
| <u>Other awards:</u> | AR Target: Star Pointer: Learning Behaviour: Bronze: Eleana (Y3), Charlie R (Y4); Kiyo (Y5); Megan M-J (Y6) | |

THE BIG QUESTION

Every Monday, Mr Ranger introduces a BIG Question that is the focus of the week ahead. The whole school then discusses and explores this topic. We would love children to bring this home and discuss it with parents and carers. This week's BIG Question is **'What are good manners and how do we show them?'** We discussed this and did some role-play in Collective Worship and the focus of this week's awards was good manners and general politeness. See if you can catch your child displaying good manners at home this weekend!



PARENT DROP-IN CAFE

We warmly invite parents and carers to join us on **28th January at 2pm in the School Hall** for a session on Wellbeing.

We are delighted to have Rosie Carroll from the Mental Health Support Team to speak about wellbeing and what services are on offer and we can also offer a cup of something hot and a tasty biscuit or two!

Mr Ranger and Mrs Newbury will be there and are available for a chat over a cuppa.

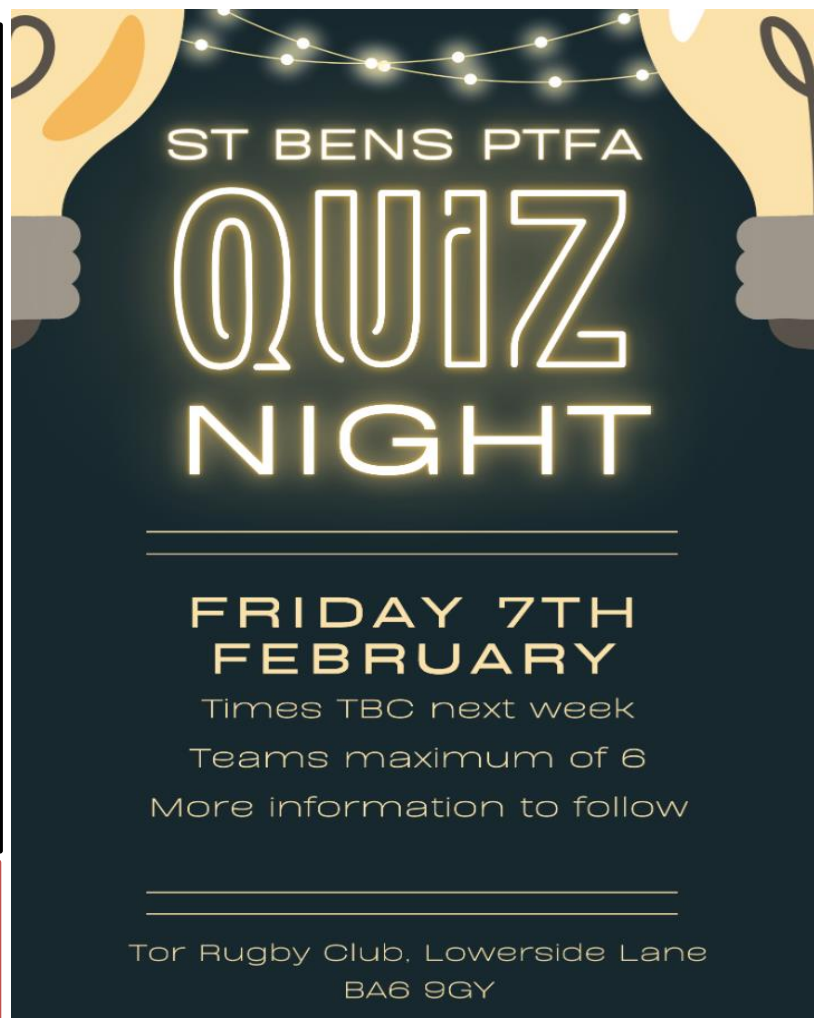
Why not join us for what promises to be a great session at 2pm, then collect your child at the normal time.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

This year we have started a St. Ben's Fantasy Football League and invited pupils, parents and staff (and we've got one ex-pupil). After 20 match days, the league standings are as follows:

1. **Sorry Nic Jackson (Jack Hopkins): 1214**
2. Kinder Mbeumo (Miss Hopkins) 1170
3. Saka's Crackers (Mr Ranger) 1166
4. Major League Saka (Mr Lintell): 1162
5. FC Peacock (Mr Kelland) 1149
6. Hunts R Us (Mrs Hunt) 1134
7. Liverpool Suck (Jake Salter) 1090
8. Hive City (Rupert Macey) 1077
9. Nearly won the Yoros (R Foote) 1029
10. Dragon FC (Stanley Macey) 1024
11. Dexter FC (Dexter Whitcombe) 992
12. Liverpool defo suck (Martin Salter) 969
13. The Highlanders (Andrew Beadle) 952
14. Mini Hopkins (Meg Hopkins) 910
15. Articulated Chaos (David Baker) 908
16. Matt's City (Matthew Sapsford) 903
17. Bry's XI (Donna Cribb) 874
18. Team Hamish (Hamish Sharp) 802
19. Onana What's My Name (M Baker) 772
20. Jacob@Wells (Jacob Richards) 689

Good luck to all managers in match week 21 ...



ST BENS PTFA
QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

Times TBC next week
Teams maximum of 6
More information to follow

Tor Rugby Club, Lowerside Lane
BA6 9GY

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

Our regular feature on what are wonderful pupils get up to out of school. This week, we star two hard-working gymnasts. First, Keira in Year 3 who has been rewarded for her commitment throughout 2024; also Aliza in Year 4 who has received a certificate of recognition as she has impressed her coaches so much last year. Both girls are part of the Edge Acrobatic Gymnastics Club. Well done, Keira and Eliza, and good luck in 2025!



Let us know what you've been up to and you could be the star of next week's newsletter!

Dates for your diary:

| Date: | Event/Activity: |
|---|--|
| Monday 13 th January | Clubs start this week |
| Tuesday 14 th January | Boys' Football County Finals at Strode (during school day) |
| Tuesday 14 th January | Year 4 to visit the Glastonbury Tribunal (in groups) |
| Thursday 16 th January | Girls' Football County Finals at Strode (during school day) |
| Thursday 16 th January | Year 4 to visit the Rural Life Museum as part of their History topic |
| Tues 28 th Jan at 2pm | Parent drop-in Café (Wellbeing focus) in the School Hall |
| Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th Feb | Year 5 Osmington Bay residential |
| Wed 5 th and Thurs 6 th March | Year 6 London residential |
| Fri 7 th March | World Book Day @ St. Ben's |
| Mon 17 th and Wed 19 th March | Parents' Evenings – save the date |
| Friday 4 th April | Break up for Easter |
| Tues 22 nd April | Start of Summer Term |

FREE bite-size workshops to help separated parents successfully co-parent

We encourage parents to attend these free online sessions run by Ruth James from Somerset County Council. The focus for each session is to give parents practical tools they can use to help themselves, and their children cope better with their separation/divorce. There are 3 bite-size workshops focused on different topics, you are welcome to come to all 3 – there are 2 of each so your ex-partner can also go along if that is applicable.

| Date & time | Topic | Link |
|--|--|---|
| Wednesday 15 January 9:30 AM-10:30 AM your | A separated parents' guide to successful co-parenting communications | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073000546519?aff=oddttdcreator |
| Wednesday 15 January 2 PM-3 PM | Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073028389799?aff=oddttdcreator |
| Tuesday 21 January 2 PM-3 PM | Helping your children navigate separation and divorce | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073078549829?aff=oddttdcreator |
| Thursday 23 January 9:30 AM-10:30 AM | Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073084758399?aff=oddttdcreator |
| Wednesday 29 January 7 PM-8 PM | A separated parents' guide to successful co-parenting communications | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073016704849?aff=oddttdcreator |
| Tuesday 4 February 7 p.m.-8 PM | Helping your children navigate separation and divorce | https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073104998939?aff=oddttdcreator |

Updated area with information and support for separated parents:

I have updated the online web support for separated parents: [Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : Support For Separated Parents](#)