



ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 9th January 2026

Please see our PTFA Facebook Page

Contact school: school164@stbens.school

Website: stbenedictscofevajuniorschoolglastonbury.co.uk/

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back after the Christmas Break. We are already a week into the Spring Term and we have lots of adventures ahead of us. One of our projects this term will be to renovate our playground 'Quiet Area'. If you are a carpenter, builder, gardener or DIY enthusiast and would be happy to volunteer your skills for a day, please let us know.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

A reminder that we are a nut free school. This extends to lunch, snacks and any treats brought in for birthdays.
Please help us to keep all our pupils safe.

BOOK BATTLE: Autumn term averages:

Cat – 73 %, Unicorn - 78 %, Owl - 79%,
Chameleon - 96 %, Tortoise – 76 %, Spider - 88% Leopard -95%, Peacock - 93%

ATTENDANCE – DID YOU KNOW?

At St. Benedict's, pupils need line up in the playground when the bell goes at 8:45am. If they arrive after the class go in, they are counted as late. **If a pupil arrives after the register closes (9:15am), they are counted as absent for that session. This means that being late could have an impact on your child's punctuality AND attendance.** The Local Authority are now prompting schools to challenge poor attendance and punctuality, so Mr Ranger will contact you if we are concerned about your child's lateness or absence.

CUT DOWN PACKAGING AND ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS

As a school, we are creating a Climate Action Plan this year and one of our targets will be to reduce the use of single use plastics. Please help us with this by putting your child's snack and lunch in re-usable containers (please name these!)

This also helps to ensure your child has a healthy snack/lunch rather than ultra-processed foods which have been proven to have negative effects on health and wellbeing. Thank you for your support with this – it will lead to happier, healthier children and a litter-free environment!

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2027-28

From 2027-28, we are planning to add in a new criterion for Admissions Arrangements to St. Benedict's Year 3. This will be to help us prioritise pupils from St. John's. It will read as follows:

Children attending St. John's Infant School, Glastonbury, in Year 2, for a period of a term or more by the closing date for applications (15th January 2027),

We are currently in a period of consultation regarding this.
Please see the Policies section of our website to read the proposed Admissions Arrangements document in full.

ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Headteacher's Award</u>	<u>Teacher's Award</u>
Cats:	Belle – continuing to improve her handwriting.	Florence – for always taking care of the presentation of her work.
Unicorns:	Alicia – working hard in phonics.	Logan – for great recall in science.
Chameleons	Joseph – adding more detail to his writing and presenting it beautifully.	Freya – super use of personification and alliteration in her writing.
Owls:	Jovial – great listening and focus in all lessons this week.	Harrison – good focus in maths and science.
Spiders:	Cave – great effort and progress in handwriting practise.	Bence – great effort to improve handwriting and presentation.
Tortoises:	Sophia – trying hard to improve her handwriting and presentation.	Roman – for marvellous multiplication this week.
Leopards:	Ellen – an excellent attitude in class and for showing great perseverance.	Darcie – for superb effort in all her learning.
Peacocks:	Jaxon – working hard this week to improve his presentation .	Logan – always presenting his work beautifully.
<u>Class Dojo Champs</u>	This week's champions are Peacock Class with 18.8 points per child and they get an extra break next week. Well done Peacocks!	
<u>Attendance Champs</u>	This week's champions are Tortoise Class, with 97.5% attendance. Well done Tortoises, 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 – 57 % , Unicorn - 77 % , Owl - 70% , Chameleon - 90 % , Tortoise – 79 % , Spider – 80% , Leopard - 92% , Peacock - 93% Meaning that this week's champs are Peacock class with 93%	
<u>Values' Award</u>	Reggie – always choosing kindness at every opportunity. Jack – making the adults in Peacock class and the Beehive smile everyday!	
<u>Other Awards</u>	Learning Behaviour: Bronze: Rayyan, Albi, Charlie, Franklin, Neala, Amy, Jemima, Elsie, Evie, Kiy, Hamish, Isaac, Logan B, Aiden AR Target Master: Poppy, Juno ELSA Award: Amelia	

Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event/Activity:
Mon 12 th Jan 2026	Spring Term Clubs begin
Tues 13 th Jan	Boys Football County Finals at Strode – all day
Wed 14 th Jan	Girls Football County Finals at Strode – all day
Friday 23 rd Jan	TT Rockstars Day – dress up as a rocker for tables fun and challenges
Fri 13 th Feb	Break up for Half Term
NOTE THE DATE: Mon 23rd Feb	INSET Day – School is closed. Pupils will return on Tues 24 th Feb
Tues 3 rd – Wed 4 th March	Year 6 London residential
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day at St. Ben's
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th March	Year 5 Osmington Bay residential

What are you up to?

Our weekly focus on what our wonderful pupils are up to outside of school.

This week, we feature Iris and Lauralie, both of whom are members of Edge Gymnastics, whose sessions take place at Tor Leisure on Tuesdays at 5pm. Iris has won an award for being Most Improved Gymnast and Lauralie has scooped a number of certificates for her great performances. They are joined by Ted in Year 4 who is a member of Wells City Harriers athletics club. Ted, who earned himself the Athlete of the Week, award, says that his favourite athletics events are the jumping ones!

Have you achieved something out of school, or do you have a hobby you would like us to shine a light on? Please send Mr Ranger a Dojo message with a photo and a few words explaining what your child has been up to.



Sumdog and IXL

We are pleased to inform parents and carers that we are currently participating in a trial of an online learning platform called IXL.

What is IXL?

- An online learning platform used for maths
- A personalised programme that adapts to each child's ability level
- A tool used both in school and at home to support learning

What are the benefits of IXL?

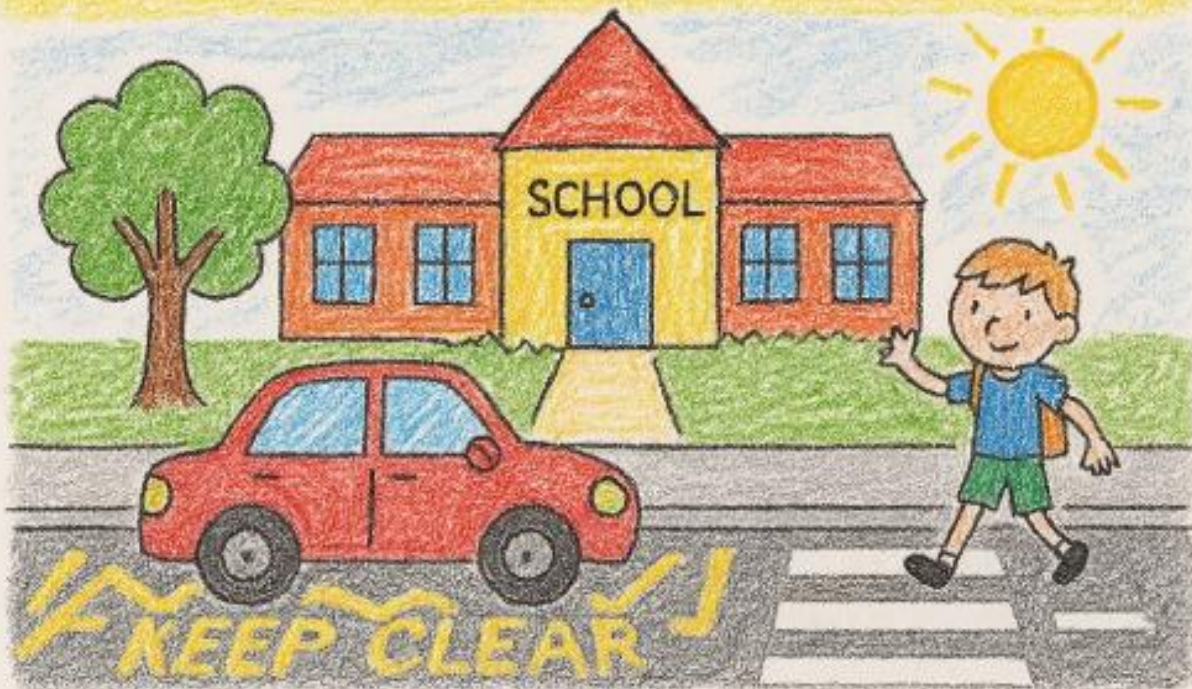
- Provides immediate feedback so students understand why an answer is correct
- Adjusts the level of difficulty to challenge students while reinforcing key skills
- Builds confidence through guided, independent practice
- Helps children learn at their own pace
- Allows teachers and parents to monitor progress and identify areas for support
- Reinforces classroom learning with targeted practice

We are already seeing some very positive outcomes from using IXL, particularly among pupils in Years 5 and 6. As a result, we have taken the decision for IXL to replace Sumdog across these year groups. Sumdog will continue to be available for children in Years 3 and 4, as we have seen greater engagement with this platform among this age range.

Starting next week, Mr Kelland will be running an after-school IXL club for any children who would like to explore IXL further.

Please also note that disabled spaces **MUST** be kept clear – we have a number of parents/carers with blue badges and they require these spaces.

PARK SAFELY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS



SAFETY REMINDER:

- No parking on single or double yellow lines
- No double parking
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the School Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the pedestrian crossing white zig zag lines
- No parking on corners or junctions, especially near the school entrance

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!