

Our Vision and Ethos

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...

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...

One such idea is **the Happiness Hunt** – this saw Year 6 pupils team up with local care homes in a project designed to bring some colour and fun into the lives of care home residents, whilst teaching our pupils to be compassionate and empathetic towards people of a different generation. The care homes loved receiving their cards and art work from the children, and the children were very excited to receive letters back. The project even grabbed the attention of BBC Somerset Radio, who paid a socially distanced visit to school to interview our Year 6's. Other projects have included Christmas Cards for Care Homes (in conjunction with Glastonbury Morrisons) and Easter cards for Care Homes, in conjunction with the local Police Force. ***School Values: Community and Compassion***



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, planting up and maintaining 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 has funded the project.

The raised beds are currently being built by our groundsman, Rich Daniels, and will soon be seen in the following locations:

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

Photos coming soon...

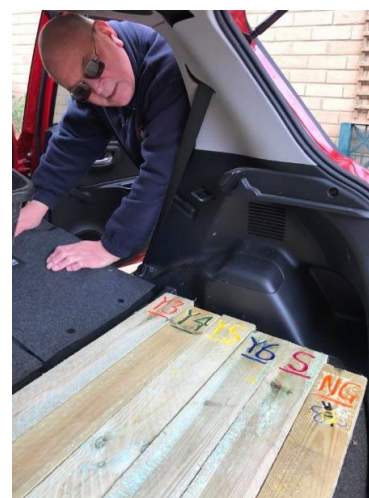
Pupils will then regularly tend to the raised beds, helping to foster in them a sense of service – giving of oneself to improve the lives of others. School Value: Community.

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 developing 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. In March 2021, all Year 6 pupils helped volunteers from 'Re-imagining the Levels' to plant an indigenous hedge around part of the World Garden – this will attract a wide variety of wildlife to our field, including birds and insects. We hope to invite parents and members of our school community in to spend time in our outdoor spaces.

School Values: Hope and Community



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. So far this year they have completed dementia training – helping them to be more compassionate, understanding members of the community. They also conducted 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 also joined local beat officers in St. Benedict's Church as part of the Christmas lunches for homeless members of our community and were extremely helpful. ***School Values: Community and Compassion***



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: Hope and Compassion



'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 – last year generous pupils at St. Benedict's raised over £1300 for Children in Need!