



ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 18th February 2022

Please see our PTFA Facebook Page

Contact school: sch.164@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Website: stbenedictscofevajuniorschoolglastonbury.co.uk/

St. Ben's School Christian Values for this term: *Hope* and *Compassion*.

CHANGES TO DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

A letter went home on Thursday 17th February regarding the easing of measures at school after half term.

Please ensure you read this carefully as there will be changes to the start and end of the day, especially for Years 3 and 4. The main changes are:

Before School:

- All pupils to start school at 8:45am; playground will be open to pupils from 8:30am.

After School Collection:

- Gates open at 3:05 for parents of Year 3 and 4 pupils to come onto playground
- 3:10pm Year 3 and 4 line up on playground for parents to collect them.
- Year 5 exit through back gate at 3:15pm,
- Year 6 exit through front of school at 3:15pm.

We are hoping this will alleviate some of the pressure on the back gate at the end of school.

As ever, we would recommend that parents walk/ride to school to avoid the issues of parking and pollution at the back gate. Please let us know your thoughts on the new system.

BAD CASE OF WIND CLOSES SCHOOLS

Friday 18th February saw a bit of drama as schools across the South West were closed for the day due to a Red weather warning as a result of Storm Eunice. Not for the first time in recent years were children told to 'Stay at home and Keep Safe' but this time, Covid was far from their minds as they experienced 80-90 mph winds and relentless rain.

Thank you all for your understanding regarding the closure. It is so unusual to close the school for weather-related reasons but it's great to have the backing of the school community when it happens! We hope everyone stays safe!

FAREWELL MRS ELSLEY

Mrs Elsley, one of our PPA teachers, has left St. Benedict's this week. Mrs Elsley has been a very popular member of our staff team and adults and pupils alike will miss her hugely. Mrs Elsley has left to take up a teaching post closer to home.



ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

Headteacher's Award

Teacher's Award

There are no awards to report this week due to our wind closure. Well done to all pupils for their hard work and excellent attitude to learning this week.

YEAR 4 POLISH UP THEIR GEOGRAPHY SKILLS AT RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

On Thursday 17th February, Year 4 visited Glastonbury's Rural Life Museum to polish up their Geography skills. Education Lead at the museum, Sandy Thomas, put the children through their paces and they enjoyed workshops on willow craft as well as completing the Museum quiz on a self-guided tour. The children loved the day and learned a lot about the beautiful county of Somerset.



GREEN FINGERED PUPILS PLANT FOR THE FUTURE

This week saw pupils from all year groups donning their wellies and coats to brave the winter weather and plant for the future. On Monday, Years 3, 4 and 6 planted up a brand new native hedge along the perimeter of the field, guided by volunteers from re-imagining the Levels while on Tuesday, our Year 5's got to create an incredible willow tunnel under the watchful (and soggy) eyes of groundsman, Rich Daniels, and Mr Ranger. A huge thank you to Rich and to Paul and Sarah Sander-Jackson and their team. As you can see, our pupils were in their element!



SONG AND DANCE LIGHT UP ST. BEN'S

This week saw the visit of two inspirational guests; on Monday, Kate Lynch brought the gift of song to our school with her energetic workshops, first for the lower school, then the upper school. Kate has shared some singing ideas with our Music Lead Mrs Coton who is excited to hear our pupils' efforts. Then, on Wednesday, Year 6 got to learn about the Windrush Generation, first with a history lesson, then through dance, with Ellen bringing a flavour of the Caribbean to Glastonbury. Year 6 were shocked at the scandalous treatment of the Windrush generation and it has led them to further investigate this slice of history.



LOVE A BIT OF DRAMA?

Spaces available in St Ben's Drama Club

This year the Drama Club have been creating a story together and in the second half of term we will be learning all the drama skills needed to turn the story into a performance. If you love using your imagination, making friends and having fun then come along and join us.

Drama Club happens after school on Tuesdays until 4:30pm.

Spaces are limited so contact Maxine on 07850445540 for more information or to book a space.

If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium, we could help to subsidise the cost of drama club sessions.

Change to INSET Day

We had planned to hold an INSET Day on 25th April 2022, but this has been changed to **Monday 25th July 2022**. Many of our pupils have missed considerable chunks of learning through Covid-related absence and we are keen to take advantage of every day we can. **After Easter, we will now return to school on Monday 25th April and pupils will break up for the summer holidays on Friday 22nd July.** St. John's Infant School are taking the same action so that we can be consistent as a school community. Please contact Mr Ranger with any questions or concerns.

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW TEACHING ASSISTANT?

St. Benedict's is a great place to work and we have a wonderful team. We are looking for new Teaching Assistants and we would love to recruit from within our school community. If you have some experience working with children or have no experience but think it may be your calling, please let us know. We have a variety of options including volunteering at school, gaining a qualification as you work through an apprenticeship scheme or simply starting as a Teaching Assistant. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mr Ranger on 01458 831811 or send him a message on Class Dojo. For current positions, see the advert on our website or visit the Dillington website.

COULD YOUR WRITING WIN PRIZES?

We have some fabulous writers at St. Benedict's and I would encourage them all to visit the Burnham Book Festival website and enter one of the competitions (including categories for under 11's and 11-15's in short stories and poetry). All are free to enter and have cash prizes as well as the exciting opportunity to be published in an anthology. The closing date for entries is Monday 28th Feb, so why not check it out this weekend. For more, visit: <https://burnhambookfest.co.uk/competition/>

Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event/Activity:
Mon 28 th February	School resumes after half term – please see front page re changes to collection and drop off.
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character.
Looking ahead:	
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th March	Year 5 Osmington Bay Residential
Monday 4 th April	Parents' Evening: 3:30 – 5:30pm
Thursday 7 th April	Parents' Evening: 5:30 – 7:30pm
Friday 8 th April	Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 25 th April	Return to school – NO INSET – see note above.