



# ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 9th December 2022

*Please see our PTFA Facebook Page*

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**St. Ben's School Christian Values for this term: *Community and Peace***

## CATHEDRAL SINGERS IMPRESS

**Aisha Hembury reporting**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, singers from Years 4-6 joined Naomi MacLeod-Jones to sing different Christmas carols at Wells Cathedral. It took four weeks of practice to ace the notes and sometimes to make different actions to help with hitting the notes. Once at the Cathedral, we shared a space with St. Paul's School; we put on our Christmas jumpers and started rehearsals, practising 'Follow the Star', 'Come and Join the Celebration' and 'Once in Royal David's City' and lots of other fun songs. After lunch, we got to play around outside, then it was time to perform to all the parents and other visitors. It went spectacularly well and we performed awesomely. Mrs Coton and Mrs M-J were so proud and so were the audience. Also the choristers were stunning – they were like angels ascending to the heavens. Then the day was over and sadly we had to go home, but all of us knew we had made our mark at Wells Cathedral.



## BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM WINS PLAY-OFF

This week our Boys' team won their third place play off to finish third overall in this year's Street and District League. The team faced a determined Butleigh team who played well but were no match for an energetic St. Ben's who ran out 5-1 winners with goals from Jagger (3), Foote and Moon. Millard made his debut at left back and put in a solid performance as part of the league's tightest defence. Well done, lads!



## Choir Sing at Cathedral

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, our School Choir, led by Mrs Coton, had the opportunity to sing at the Cathedral with 400 other singers. We will feature this in next week's Bulletin with a write up by Florence and Holly..

## CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas Carol Service today was a great success – please see page 4 for more details and photos...

## ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

<u><b>Dojo Points Champs</b></u>	Chameleon Class were this week's winning class with an average of 16 Dojo points each. They win an extra break! Well done, Chameleons!
<u><b>Attendance Champs</b></u>	Owls scoop the attendance award this week with 97.5% attendance. They win an extra break! Great work, Owls!
<u><b>Book Battle Champs</b></u>	<p>This week's Book Battle Champs are <b>Peacock Class</b> – 67% of them read 5 X per week; more than any other class – they get an extra break and are one step closer to their very own non-uniform day; great reading, <b>Peacocks!</b></p> <p>The overall winners this half term are <b>Peacock Class!</b> They have earned themselves a non-uniform day which they will take next Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> December). Huge congratulations, Peacocks, a higher percentage of you have read at least 5 x a week than in any other class.</p> <p>We will start a new Book Battle for next half term. Make sure you read 5 x over the Christmas Holidays to give your class a great start back.</p>

### Free book giveaway!

Thursday 15th December  
3.10pm - 4.10pm

Join us in the school hall and choose a book to take home - a gift from Somerset Libraries.

Parents and siblings are very welcome - there will be fiction and non-fiction books for all ages.



## LAST WEEK OF TERM

Next week promises to be a busy end to a wonderful term. The highlights include:

**Tuesday:** Year 3 Nativity at St. Ben's Church (whole school performance at 1:45pm, evening performance at 6pm (please bring your child in at 5:40pm).

**Wednesday:** Whole School Christmas Lunch

**Wear your Christmas jumper day** (donations to Save the Children, please). We will have a group of Christmas elves in the BeeHive who will accessorise school jumpers so that no-one misses out on the fun! Autumn Mini-reports home.

**Friday:** Last day of term; non-uniform day so that children can dress festively for their party day.

There will be NO after school clubs next week, with the exception of Ben's Den (which will not be happening on Friday) and Drama Club, on Tuesday. DASH will still be on every day.



# CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE MELTS HEARTS

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, St. Benedict's Church was filled with the angelic sound of children's song as pupils from St. Benedict's School entertained a packed audience of parents, carers and wider family with their festive songs and readings. Mrs Coton, who organised the service, set a theme of 'The animals' point of view' this year, so the children were tasked with re-imagining the Nativity story through the eyes of the beasts. They wrote and performed brilliantly with support from the choir and Ms Greuter's Glee Club. The school was joined by residents and staff from St. Benedict's Care Home who loved relished the festive treat. Thank you to year group teams for their efforts, to Ms Greuter for her great Glee Club work and to Mrs Coton for being our Queen of Song and for her organising efforts. Finally, a huge well done to the children who were magnificent!



## PLEASE COLLECT FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

A reminder that if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, you are entitled to a voucher for £20 for the Christmas Holidays. If you have not collected this already, please do so ASAP so that you can use it during the holidays.

## What are you up to?

**Our weekly focus on what our wonderful pupils are getting up to out of school.**

This week Sophia in Year 4 has caught our eye with her crafting; Sophia has been inspired by her Auntie and, through hard work and perseverance, developed some impressive skills of her own, creating soft toys with her sewing machine and through hand skills. We're sure you'll agree that creative Sophia is a star of the future! **What have you been up to? Send Mr Ranger a Class Dojo message or contact your child's teacher. You could be the star of next week's newsletter!**



## The BIG Question

This week's BIG Question was inspired by the magnificent Japanese football fans who tidied up the stadium after their victories against Germany and Spain in the World Cup. Our question was **'what behaviour do you want to see more of in the world?'** Our roving reporters, Caspar and Toby Moon spoke to a range of pupils to see what they thought; here is a selection of responses:

**'More honesty': Sam**

**'Manners': Ms Branton**

**'More respect': Aaron**

**'More tidiness': Olivia**

**'More forgiveness': Noah**

**'Generosity': Daisy**

**'More care': Kyla**

**'More safeness': Orrin**

**'More kindness': Alfred**

**'Think before you speak': Victoria**

**'Show more caring': Frankie**

**'More respect': Luna**

### Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event/Activity:
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas Nativity Play at St. Benedict's Church Whole School performance to pupils: 1:45pm Evening performance to adults: 6pm (please bring children to school at 5:40pm – not before, as we have preparations to work on!)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear your Christmas Jumper day (for a donation to Save the Children) and Christmas lunch; Cutting of the Holy Thorn – Year 6 will attend this in the morning. Autumn Term mini-reports to go home – this is an update on your child's effort, behaviour, attendance and attainment this term.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day; class Christmas parties and break up for Christmas Holidays.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Return to school after holidays



# THE START OF THE DAY

Part of Positive Behaviour Policy is that teachers will greet pupils as they come into school. We believe this is a really important interaction and starts the day in a positive way, helping to build relationships between staff and pupils. For this to happen, pupils must be at school on time, and teachers must be free to greet the children.

I am aware that some parents of pupils are keen to speak to teachers at the beginning of the day, but this is having an impact on teachers meeting and greeting their class, so, from Monday, I would respectfully request that if you need to communicate a message to teachers, please do this through Class Dojo or make an appointment to meet your child's teacher.

A reminder that we shut the back gate at 8:45am, so if you are arriving at school later than this, please go to the front of school. Please remember that the playground is open from 8:30am, so if your child is frequently late, why not drop them off earlier. Mr Ranger will be contacting parents and carers of pupils who are regularly late to discuss the impact of this on their learning, relationships and wellbeing.



## Getting your child to school on time matters. Did you know...

If in a school year your child is late every day...

5 minutes  
10 minutes  
15 minutes  
20 minutes  
30 minutes

Your child would have lost approximately...

3.5 days from school  
7 days from school  
10 days from school  
14.5 days from school  
22 days from school

Or they would have missed approximately...

20 lessons  
41 lessons  
55 lessons  
82 lessons  
123 lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.  
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.  
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunities



## Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

If your child's attendance during the school year is...

95%  
90%  
85%  
80%  
75%  
70%  
65%

Your child would have lost approximately...

9 days  
19 days  
29 days  
38 days  
48 days  
57 days  
67 days

Or they would have lost approximately...

50 lessons  
100 lessons  
150 lessons  
200 lessons  
250 lessons  
290 lessons  
340 lessons

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Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.  
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunities