



# ST. BEN'S BULLETIN: 6th January 2023

*Please see our PTFA Facebook Page*

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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back; we hope you have all had a relaxing and peaceful break.

We are excited to be back at school and can't wait for the adventures that 2023 will bring!

### **CLUBS** will start w/b 16<sup>th</sup>

**January (with the exception of Production Club, which will start next Monday – 9<sup>th</sup> January) a Spring Term Clubs letter has gone out this week.**

Please note that Junior Duke will now be a 'drop-in' club on Monday lunchtimes, as children are completing their activities at home.

## NEW YEAR, NEW VALUES

In the autumn term, we reached out to school stakeholders regarding our plans to identify three school values. When we consulted pupils, parents, governors and staff, the three values that consistently came up were:

**Community,  
Resilience, and,  
Kindness.**

These values reflect what we are all about at St. Benedict's and they will be our new core values, underpinning everything we do at school. Each Friday in Celebration Praise, we will hand out a 'Values' award for the pupil/s that live out our school values.

If your child has embodied these values at home, why not let us know via Class Dojo so that we can mention them in our weekly newsletter.

## FOOTBALL TEAMS ENJOY MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Both Girls and Boys football team finished in the medals this season for the first time in St. Benedict's history. Following their play-off success the Boys' team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and after their unbeaten season, the Girls' team came top of the league. Both teams received their medals from a delighted Mr Ranger and Mr Lintell who coached the teams for the memorable season. Well done to all players involved!



## ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Headteacher's Award</u>	<u>Teacher's Award</u>
Cats:	Blossom: always presenting her work beautifully.	Thomas: for his fantastic home reading during the holidays!
Unicorns:	Prudence: having beautiful presentation in all of her work.	Kiyo: for a positive start at a new school.
Chameleons:	Mason Ti: beautifully presented maths work.	Eloise: super answers in science and maths.
Owls:	Jessica: being a resilient tortoise, always working hard in all subjects.	Jamie: working hard and for improving his presentation.
Spiders:	Kian: a fantastic start to Spider Class – Welcome!	Liam: real improvement in handwriting and presentation.
Tortoises:	Ezmay: a confident and positive first week in Tortoise Class.	Simeon: for being a Presentation Peacock in all his work.
Leopards:	Joshua: a great start to the term – fabulous effort.	Grace: for being a great example of growth mindset.
Peacocks:	EH: continuously being a 'Presentation Peacock' in all her work.	Rosie: for being a superstar all day – every day.
<u>Dojo Points Champs</u>	<b>Leopard Class</b> were this week's winning class with an average of 17 Dojo points each. They win an extra break! Well done, Leopards!	
<u>Attendance Champs</u>	<b>Cat Class</b> scoop the attendance award this week with 98% attendance. They win an extra break! Great work, Cats!	
<u>Book Battle Champs</u>	Leopard: 42%   Peacock: 46%   Tortoise: 28%   Spider: 44% Owl: 33%   Chameleon: 56%   Unicorn: 15%   Cat: 56%  A HUGE well done to <b>Cat Class</b> and <b>Chameleon Class</b> , this week's joint winners!	
<u>Other awards</u>	Learning Behaviour: Bronze awards for Indie and Jacob P (Year 4) and a Silver Award for Blaize (Year 4).  Millionaires' Reading Award for Hazel and Target Master for EH. Well done, girls!	

## YEAR 3's SENSATIONAL SANDWICHES

This week Year 3 put their DT and Science skills to the test as they designed and then created their very own healthy sandwiches. Before Christmas, Year 3 completed a Science unit on balanced, healthy eating and their sandwiches were proof of just how much they had learned. Each child got to take their sandwich home for the all-important tasting!





## Pond renovation gets underway

On Thursday this week, Mr Ranger and a group of Year 6's and staff began to tackle our school pond, which has become rather neglected in recent times. The hard-working group, including Ms Grenter, Miss Leppington, Mr Lintell and Leo, Lily, Spencer, Freya, Sirius and Sofia from Year 6 have managed to clear the pond which is now ready for phase 2 – rebuilding and planting. We hope to be able to use the pond by the summer term this year. Thanks to the group for their fabulous work and apologies to the frogs for the disruption to their habitat!



## READING CHAMPS ENJOY NON-UNIFORM DAY

Peacock Class celebrated their Book Battle success with a non-uniform day on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. More of their pupils read at least five times than in any other class which led them to victory last half term.

**The battle starts afresh this half term – could your child's class be victorious?**

You can help by encouraging them to read at least five times every week and ensuring you sign their reading record.

**Well done to Cat Class pupils and parents who went from 11% up to 50% within two weeks – could they be champions by half term??**

## Attendance matters

Research shows that pupils who miss school do not achieve as well as their peers who regularly attend. One of the most vital things you can do to support your child is to ensure they have a strong attendance ethic. The government issued new guidance last year that requires school to be more robust in their challenging of absence, so please be aware that we will contact you if your child's attendance falls below 90% for any reason.

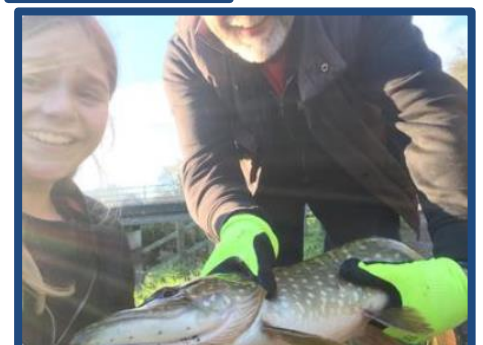
**See page 5 for data on the impact of missed attendance and poor punctuality...**

# What are you up to?

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

This week we've been impressed by four of our pupils, who have once again proved that St. Ben's is full of skills and talents. First up, it's Rosalee who performed exerts from the Nutcracker in a Christmas Ballet show at Wells. Lily, meanwhile, caught herself an enormous pike whilst fishing over the Hols. Theatrical Sophia took part in 12 performances of Cinderella at Strode Theatre and Grace has been impressing at her Gym Club where she has earned herself a medal for being the hardest worker of 2022– in our opinion, there is no higher praise!

**Very well done, all!**



## PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT

We are aware that circumstances are always changing for families, particularly with the hardships many of us face at the moment with rising food prices and energy costs spiralling. Please don't forget that your child may be eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant which could help you with their school costs. More than 1 in every 3 of our pupils are already in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant and they are benefitting from opportunities that may include:

- Subsidising trips,
- Subsidising uniform,
- Eligibility for Free School Meals,
- Accessing other opportunities such as cultural experiences.

It is very simple to apply and it may offer you, and your child, some much needed support. Please contact our office on 01458 831811. We look forward to helping you.

## Dates for your diary:

Date:	Event/Activity:
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Production Club begins. All other clubs begin the week after (w/b 16 <sup>th</sup> January).
W/B 16 <sup>th</sup> January	All clubs begin this week.
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> January	County finals Boys' Football Tournament at Strode: this will be played within the school day; players will need a packed lunch (letters will go out to selected players).
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Navy STEM Day for Year 6.
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 and 4 to visit Millfield to watch Millfield Prep's production of Matilda (£2 transport cost to be paid on Parent Pay).

## THE START OF THE DAY

Part of our 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. Thank you for your support.



## 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**