



# St Benet's Catholic Primary School

*'A happy and holy place of learning and the centre of a thriving community'*

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**2024**

## Head teacher News

Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

*'The time has come to say Goodbye, my friend. We have reached the end... how I'll miss you!'* A very pertinent line from *The Tempest* for our Y6 children. As we wave a fond farewell to our lovely Y6 children, we applaud them for all that they have achieved at primary school. We will miss them but know that they will continue to flourish as they move onto pastures new. Well done Y6; we are very proud of you and wish you the happiest times ahead. Good luck and remember to come back and visit your beloved St Benet's family.

We also say Goodbye to some of our staff members, today. Mr Laidler, who has been working in Y6 this year as a teaching assistant, shall be leaving today and Mrs Pattinson, our Y5 teacher, who started with us in September. Mrs Thackray, who has been on maternity leave this year, also leaves St Benet's after working with us for the last 7 years. We also say Goodbye to Mrs Lawson, our wonderful cook, who has been preparing our school lunches for the last 34 years. We thank her for all of the delicious meals that she has made for over 3 decades serving generations of children at lunchtime. Enjoy your retirement and those precious times with your granddaughter. Mrs Canham, our Deputy Headteacher, also leaves us today. We thank her for the dedication that she has shown to our school community over the last 15 years and for her overall commitment to Catholic Education. She has written a few words to share with you all, which can be found overleaf. We wish all staff leaving our school today, the best of luck in their new adventures. God bless you all!

Another year is over at St Benet's...and what a year! I am certainly glad to see the back of it, but as we looked back on the photos of the year with the staff and children this morning, we all felt proud and honoured of what we have achieved. This school is more than just a building, we are a community, a family and a place of love! This year, we found strength in our community and each other as members of St Benet's family and I am so proud to be headteacher of this fantastic school!

Wishing you all an amazing summer break, full of sunshine, laughter and lots of happy times shared with your wonderful children.  
See you on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards,  
Catherine Young



## Message from Mrs Canham

It's almost impossible to encapsulate in a few short sentences my thoughts and feelings about leaving St Benet's. It has been an honour to work in this lovely school community. I've been blessed to work with wonderful families, colleagues and members of the governing body both past and present but the biggest honour has been the incredible children.

I'm so grateful for each pupil I've taught and watched develop here. Children bring the joy into our school. They are the heart of St Benet's and I'm so thankful for all the amazing memories I take with me. Thank you to all the Parents/Carers who placed their trust in myself and the team. The success of our school wouldn't be possible without that home - school partnership.

Our school is so much more than just a building – we have witnessed that this year alone! Everyone who visits St Benet's comments on the positive ethos and caring nature. And I know this will continue as the years pass.

I leave today with so many special memories and with gratitude for the time I've spent in this wonderful community. It will always hold a special place in my heart.

Your children are a delight and a credit to you and I look forward to hearing about their successes in the future. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be your Deputy Headteacher.

With love & Prayers,  
Mrs Canham

## Statements to Live By

This week's Statement to Live By (that we introduce to the children each week in our Monday Celebration of the Word) is:

**'Simple things can make us happy'**

In a world where technology has taken over, let's use this summer as an opportunity to rest, read a book, enjoy nature and God's beautiful world. Get out and explore what is on our doorsteps and beyond!



## Uniform from September

As mentioned in the last newsletter, from September a tie is compulsory with all shirts and polo shirts. A tie with the elasticated band can be worn with a polo shirt, even for junior children. Shirts should be tucked in and although we do remind children about this in school, we are asking parents to ensure that their child's shirt or polo shirt is tucked in before they leave for school each morning. Black shoes should be worn too and trainers are to be left at home from September. We appreciate that it has been the end of term and for some children, you are waiting to purchase new shoes over the holidays, but from September black shoes must be worn.

Thank you.



## Friends of St Benet's Events

Our Friends of St Benet's group really deserve a huge round of applause! Thanks to this lovely parent group and your support with the events in school lately, we have raised **£970** on the bottle tombola at Sports Days. In addition, the Summer Disco raised **£870** which is amazing!

## Thank You from the Staff

It really is not necessary to buy gifts and cards for staff at the end of the year, but yet again we have been showered with wonderful tokens of appreciation. Your heartfelt messages particularly mean a lot, so sincere thanks from all of the staff for your kindness.



## Summer Library Reading Challenge

Mrs Coulson, one of our lunchtime supervisors who left us in June, now works at Pelton Library and she has been in touch to pass on this message about something exciting happening at the library this summer...

All County Durham libraries are taking part in the challenge so children don't just have to go to Pelton Library (but she would LOVE to see you there!)

Briefly, to take part in the challenge, children need to borrow (and preferably read!) 6 books before Saturday 7th September. They can do that in as many or as few (but at least 2) visits in that period. Children will receive stickers from us along the way and a medal and certificate from us once they have completed the Challenge.

This year for the first time, libraries are asking primary schools to promote the challenge, and reward children who return to school in September with medals/certificates, even if it's just a mention in assembly. They will also be offering an author event to the school with the highest number of pupil completers, so they will record the names of the schools that the children attend. Ah, wouldn't it be fantastic if St Benet's won!!

Also, all Durham libraries will have Summer Crafts throughout the holidays linked to the theme of the Summer reading challenge so parents, it would be worth following Durham Libraries on Facebook for regular updates about what is happening locally.

For further information, please visit:

[School-zone-src | Summer Reading Challenge](#)

