



St Benet's Catholic Primary School

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

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Newsletter: Monday 9th September 2024

Statement to Live By:

I stand up for people who are being treated
unfairly

Headteacher News

Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break with your family and friends and are ready for the new school year ahead. Our children have come back to school with a spring in their step and it has been wonderful to see their smiling faces around school once more. I would particularly like to welcome the new parents and families to our school community this year. In Reception, we welcome Jacob, Harry, Isabelle, Amelia, Theo, Oliver, Rory and Matthew. Into Year 4, we also welcome Robbie. Over the coming weeks, we shall welcome Orlo, Henry, Sonni, Remi, Theo, Harlie, Hallie, Grace and Alice into our Nursery classroom too. A huge welcome to Mrs Lauder, one of our Y5 teachers, who has joined us this September too. A HUGE Welcome to you all!

Here are a few key messages:

X/Twitter Updates

We shall continue to share examples of learning and good practice as well as news about our school via X/Twitter. Please follow us at [@Stbenetsouston](https://twitter.com/Stbenetsouston) to keep updated.

Meet the Teacher Night – Thursday 12th September, 4:30pm

For parents of children in Years 1- 6, we are holding a Meet the Teacher night where you can come along to school and meet your child's new class teacher for the year ahead. This is for parents only and will provide you with some of the relevant information about your child's curriculum, learning journey and expectations for the year. If you have siblings, please just visit one class after the other, as teachers will make availability for all families.

Attendance

We shall be sending the updated Attendance Policy and information to parents later this week. Our attendance target for this academic year is 97%. Last year, our overall attendance was 95.3% so I am sure that by working together with our parents, we can increase this percentage. Please remember to telephone or email the school before 9:30am to report any absences and any requests for leave outside of term time (holidays) must be completed using a leave of absence request form.

Uniform

Our children look super smart in their uniforms since they have returned for September. Wearing a tie is now a requirement of our school policy and it really does complete our school uniform. I am aware that some parents have questioned the changes to the PE uniform, however nothing has been changed. We are simply reminding parents that t-shirts with logos on, other than the school logo, are not part of the school uniform.

Website

Over the summer, our new school website went live. Along with our other trust schools, we now have a website which is in a similar format to other schools in the Bishop Wilkinson trust. This can be found at <https://stbenetsouston.bwcet.com/>

Kindest regards,

Catherine Young (Head teacher)



Primary School Places – Applications Now Open for September 2025

The applications are now open for primary school places. We shall be holding an **Open Morning on Thursday 17th October at 10am**. We particularly invite any of our current Nursery parents and also, if you know of any other parents in the local area who are thinking about primary school places for September 2025, please recommend our lovely school.

For any additional information regarding primary school places, please visit:

[Apply now for a primary school place - deadline 15 January 2025 - Durham County Council](#)



After School Clubs

We currently offer a fantastic wrap around care service here at St Benet's with **breakfast club every day from 7:30am and wraparound club from 3:30pm until 5:30pm (4:30pm on a Friday)**. Our after-school club provision shall also start up again from the week commencing **23rd September**. Information regarding the choice of clubs on offer for the Autumn term shall be emailed to you later this week. After school clubs shall be available on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night 3:30pm – 4:30pm.



Arbor Payments

Please ensure that as we move through this new academic year that payments for breakfast clubs, lunches, trips etc are up to date. The admin team have worked hard to ensure that all payments are up to date and moving forward this year, parents will only have one week's grace period for payments to be paid by. If you do go into arrears by a week late, we do have the right to refuse your child to attend breakfast/ after school clubs and for children to bring a packed lunch if they receive a school meal. If you do experience any financial difficulties with payments across the year, please contact the school for support.

Statements to Live By

Every week on a Monday morning in our Celebration of the Word, we introduce a new Statement to Live By. This is a statement that as a school community, we shall try to follow throughout the week. It shall link with Sunday's Gospel and we will also think about what element of the British Values agenda this refers to. In upcoming newsletters, the title of each weekly statement shall be available at the top of each newsletter (as above).

This week's statement is:

'I stand up for people who are being treated unfairly.'

At home, this would be a great conversation starter about how we can ensure that everyone is treated fairly. Our children linked this to the 'Mutual Respect' strand from the fundamental British Values.

- *How can we ensure that everyone is treated with respect?*
- *What would you do if you saw someone being treated in an unkind way?*

