



# St Benet's Catholic Primary School

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

School email: [stbenets@stbo.bwcet.com](mailto:stbenets@stbo.bwcet.com)

Teachers: [teachers@stbo.bwcet.com](mailto:teachers@stbo.bwcet.com)

Phone: 0191 4105857

Twitter (X): [@Stbenetsouston](https://twitter.com/Stbenetsouston)

Newsletter: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Statement to Live By:

We are all special

## Headteacher News

Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, our Y3/4 children performed in 'The Fairy Queen' theatre production at Consett Empire with Durham Music Service. This was a fantastic opportunity where children sang and danced as part of the choir whilst a live orchestra performed on stage. Our children were superb, full of enthusiasm and energy. Well done to all children who participated in this event and thank you to our families for supporting the children at this event too.



Last week was our **Other Faiths** week in school, where we spent some time during our RE lessons learning all about Islam. On Friday, we were greeted by Brother Khadim who came to talk to the children in Years 1 to 6 all about Islam. Brother Khadim and the staff were very impressed with the children's recall and knowledge about the Islamic faith.

Today is Safer Internet Day, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**' With more and more children having access to mobile phones and screentime these days, it is important that we celebrate this day and ensure that key messages are reinforced. At school today, children shall take part in an internet safety lesson. Information for parents and carers can be accessed at [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/).

Next week, **Bishop Stephen** shall visit St Benet's on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The day shall start with Mass in the school hall which is open to everyone, so please come along if you are free.



Our school **Ofsted** report has now been published. I am sure you have all read the report by now, but a link to it can be found here <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50268420>

Kind regards,  
Catherine Young  
Head teacher

## Family Learning Phonics Session – Reception and Year 1 Parents

We shall be holding our annual family learning phonics session tomorrow, **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. The session shall start just after 9:00am and shall be finished by 10.30am. This is an opportunity to come along and find out about how you can support your child with their phonics learning. You shall listen to teachers first and then you will have the chance to work with your child. Please come to the main entrance on Wednesday morning.



## Number Day Thank You

Our Number Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February raised **£131** for the NSPCC. Thank you for your kindness to this very worthwhile charity.



## Y3/4 Valentine's Mass this Friday

Please join us for our Y3/4 Mass on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9.15am in the school hall.

## Medical Information/ Administration of Medicine in School

We take children's medical conditions seriously, as well as the administration of medicine. However, we have strict guidelines that we must follow in line with the DfE 'Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions' policy document.

Please can we remind you that:

- Medicines must be in a bottle with a prescription label
- Antibiotics can only be given if its 4x per day and it has been prescribed by a doctor
- We cannot give paracetamol/ibuprofen/antihistamines unless it has been prescribed
- A Medicine form must be completed by a parent and medicine handed into the school office (only for medicine to be administered 4x a day). **Children should not carry medication in their bag**
- **Children with a diagnosis of asthma must have an inhaler that remains in school.**

In addition, Medical conditions, allergies and intolerances can be updated by parents on Arbor. This should be updated immediately if there are any changes to your child's conditions.

Should anyone require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



## Neurodiversity Family Support Drop-in Sessions in County Durham

Neurodiversity Family Support drop-in sessions will continue to take place across County Durham during February and March 2025 as part of the pilot. The drop-ins will bring together staff from lots of NHS, Durham County Council, local charities, and community groups into one room. Parents and carers can chat about their children, ask neurodiversity questions, and receive quality information about the Needs Led Support available to them from:

- *SEND and Inclusion; Communication and Interaction team*
- *SEND IASS*
- *0-25 Growing Health Service*
- *Education Team*
- *Family Hubs*
- *Making Changes Together Parent Carer Forum*
- *Investing in Children*
- *Getting Help Service in East Durham*
- *Bridge Creative*
- *Daisy Chain*
- *DADLG*
- *Little SENDsations*
- *Integrating*
- *Learning Library*
- *Hiyed CIC*
- *Learning a New Way CIC*
- *CAMHS*
- *And more.*



Children **DO NOT** need to have a neurodiversity diagnosis for their parents or carers to attend.

Each drop-in session is free to attend and tea/coffee will be available. Support can also be provided with parent/carer's employers to they can attend during work hours, and with transport costs if needed.

2025 dates are:

- **Monday 24th February 2025 – 10:30am-1:00pm, Whitworth Park Academy, Spennymoor, DL16 7LN**
- **Tuesday 25th February 2025 – 1:00pm-3:30pm, Cornerstone, Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, DH3 3TF**
- **Tuesday 18th March 2025 – 10am-12:30pm, Sjovoll Centre, Framwellgate Moor, DH1 5BL**

## Educational Psychologist Drop-in Sessions

Educational psychologists (EPs) help children and young people with a wide range of different needs, such as, learning, communication and language, social and emotional-wellbeing, practical skills or being independent.

They can help if, for example:

- *you are worried your child is not talking enough*
- *you struggle to know what is best to do when your child has a 'tantrum'*
- *you've noticed your child does not play with other children much*
- *your child is always on the go and does not sit still for any activity*
- *your child really struggles to be apart from you*
- *your child is feeling anxious about school*
- *you want to discuss preparing your child for adulthood*

If you have concerns about your child, come to the EP drop-in sessions where the friendly team can provide advice, discuss your concerns, and help you plan your next steps. These drop-ins are informal and focus on providing advice.

**Drop ins are running at:**

**17th February 2025** Chester-le-Street Family Hub - 9.30-11.30am

**12th March 2025** Stanley Family Hub - 12.30-2.30pm

Further information can be found at:

[Educational Psychology drop-in sessions for parents and carers - Durham County Council](#)