



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: Friday 20th December 2024

I can laugh and have fun 😊
Merry Christmas!

Headteacher News

Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

As the term comes to an end and we prepare to say Goodbye to 2024, let us reflect on what a year it has been for our St Benet's community. In January, we still faced a period of uncertainty not knowing if we would actually return to St Benet's as our school continued to be separated across two sites. The day we finally returned to St Benet's on Monday 3rd June was certainly one of the happiest days in the history of our school! Our community felt whole again. At the start of this academic year, we sadly lost our wonderful friend and patron, Deacon Peter; a man who is very much in our thoughts and continues to guide us each day.

This half term has brought inspectors to school...FINALLY! We have been waiting a very long time and although we did not expect that Ofsted would greet us in the final week before Christmas, I am delighted that the many strengths of our school were identified. The Ofsted report shall be available in the weeks after Christmas. Our Catholic School Inspection, where we achieved Outstanding in all areas, is an incredible achievement to children, staff, parents and governors. We have so much to celebrate this term, and putting inspections aside, there has been much success in all areas of school life that make me incredibly proud to be head teacher of this remarkable school!

A huge thank you to our staff and governors— they truly are exceptional and they work incredibly hard to ensure that all children achieve what they truly deserve and are happy to come to school. Our children are a blessing and all staff feel very honoured to work with such respectful, happy and enthusiastic children. Finally, thank you to yourselves as parents and carers for your continued support. It has been invaluable this year.

2025 is an exciting time for St Benet's as we shall celebrate our 50th anniversary in June and plans shall start for the new school building. It is a very exciting time for our St Benet's community.

On behalf of all of the staff and governors, I hope you all have a happy and holy Christmas and may the new year be filled with hope, health and happiness for all of us.

Kindest regards,

Catherine Young
Head teacher



Goodbye Mrs Gillespie

Today, we say Goodbye to Mrs Gillespie. After 3.5 years, Mrs Gillespie is sadly leaving us as she looks forward to spending more time with her family. I am sure Mrs Gillespie will be back to St Benet's though as she has promised to be our favourite supply teacher when she is here in Durham. We wish Mrs Gillespie the best of luck on her new adventure! She will be greatly missed!



Christmas Mass and Services at St Joseph's Church, Birtley

Parish Carol Service – **Sunday 22nd December at 10am**

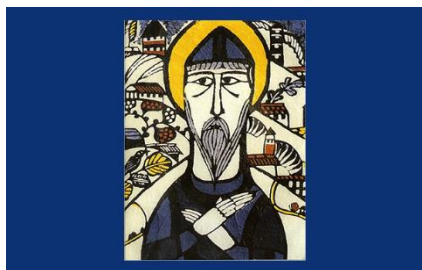
Christmas Masses

- **Tuesday 24th December 6.00pm (Carols at 5:30pm)**
- **Wednesday 25th December 10.00am**



Mass for the Feast of St Benet

Our first Mass of 2025 shall be held on **Friday 10th January** at 9:15am when Fr Martin shall come to celebrate Mass for the feast of St Benet (which we celebrate on Sunday 12th January). All are welcome to attend.



PE Days (Spring 1)

Please ensure that your child has their PE Kit in school everyday (as PE lessons can change depending on timetables and other events in school)

Reception – Wednesday and Monday (Relax Kids)

Year 1 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2 – Monday and Thursday

Year 3 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 – Monday (swimming) and Friday

Year 5 – Friday and Monday (Relax Kids)

Year 6 – Monday and Friday