



Issue 2



St. Benedict's Newsletter 25th Oct 2018

Environment

This term the children have been busy enjoying autumn in the school garden. They have been digging over the vegetable beds ready for new crops to be planted and have already helped to plant garlic and some early peas. Gardening club have been busy collecting leaves which have fallen from the trees, ready to store and turn into leaf mulch which helps to improve the soil in our garden. Mr. Weston is helping us to create a leaf mulch collection system which will mean none of our autumn leaves go to waste next year as they will all be used to make amazing compost for the school!

This time of year, it is becoming more difficult for the birds to find food, so if you can help them by putting out bird seed or some dry cereal this will mean they are stronger and warmer for the winter.

Autumn is a wonderful season to see amazing colours with your children, so take them out to the park or in your garden and go on a colour hunt, finding as many different wonderful autumn colours as you can!



If you have not already registered on the SchoolPing App, you must do so as soon as possible. Your user details can be provided by the school office. You only have to register once and then you will receive information about all your children. It is vital that you are on the app or the portal (<https://stbendic-bham.secure-dbprimary.com>) as important school news and messages are sent through it and not being registered means you will not receive the messages. With the cold weather approaching, surely you want to know if we have to close the school!

To be able to register, you must have an active email address. These can be set up with Outlook or Gmail. If you have any questions, please ask.

Reception Applications

The application portal for Reception places in 2019 is now open. Applications must be made via <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school-admissions/1786/draft-apply-for-reception-primary-school>. You have until the end of the year to make an application and assistance is available via the school office if you need it.

REMEMBER: If you have applied for any other school place via the Council website, you must use the same User ID and Password. A link to reset these is on the application page on the website.

Attendance

Pupil absences MUST be reported before 9.30am by telephone. This must be done daily. You can contact the school's attendance line on 0121 464 6420 and leave a message either on the answer phone or with the school attendance officer.

The phone lines are available from 7.30am. Attendance is monitored weekly. If your child's attendance falls below the expected levels you will be sent a letter informing you of this.

Pupil Premium

If you currently receive any of these benefits please inform the school office who will be able to check if you are entitled to receive free school meals (for Year 3) and pupil premium:

- Universal Credit provided your annual net earned income is not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67) per month
- Income Support
- Income –based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income – related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax

Reading

Do you know all the ways we teach reading and support children in reading? We have daily story time sessions even for Year 3 pupils. Children read in a group every week and every day, after lunch. We encourage quiet reading throughout the school.

Every fortnight children read a book together as a whole class and we take each class to our school library too. Here children listen to stories or choose their own books to read.

Reading holds the keys to so much success in school. Help us to make your child a good reader by reading a bedtime story, every day, in any language.

Thank you for your support.

Up Coming Dates

Tuesday 6th November – Year 3 trip to the Nature Centre

Wednesday 7th November – whole school photograph day

Thursday 8th November – Reception eye tests

Week commencing Monday 19th November – school book fair

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS – MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER