



Issue 8



St. Benedict's Newsletter 30th May 2019

Environment

Gardening Club have been working extremely hard sowing a variety of vegetable and flower seeds and we are almost ready to sell some of those. We have already sold some tomato and bean plants and have more to sell very soon. Thank you to the Gardening Club for helping to sell the plants. This year we hope to have a range of flowering plants too including Marigolds and Sweet William.

The Eco-Committee's enthusiasm to reduce the amount of plastic we use in school has been passed onto Gardening Club and they have been experimenting in making plant pots from newspaper to reduce our use of plastic plant pots - well done all of you!

The Eco-Committee have also been looking at climate change and what we can do to help the wildlife around us. Just this week it was announced that several species of bee have become extinct in the UK. You can do one simple thing to help - at this time of year, you may have long grass in your garden with lots of dandelions growing in it. This is a perfect place for bees, butterflies and other insects to live and feed. So next time you cut the grass, maybe leave a small strip to grow wild. This will provide a safe place for such creatures to feel safe and help support the local bee population!

Attendance

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

As you may be aware, the law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

Reminders: -

- First Aid workshop will take place on Wednesday 12th June. Acceptance slips will be sent out after the holiday.
- Parents visit to Eco Park will be on 19th June, further information to follow.
- Dentist workshop will be on Monday 17th June in the community room.
- School will be closed from Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May inclusive for Whitsun half term holiday.
- School will be closed on Monday 3rd June for Teacher Training Day.
- **School closes for the Summer Term on Thursday 18th July at 12.45pm**

Spotlight on Reading



Reading to your child - sharing a book with a child is fun. It's a closeness, laughing and talking together. It can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers. Not everyone is confident with books and reading aloud, so the Book Trust website has produced some handy tips and advice to help you get the most out of reading together. Remember there's no right or wrong way to do it - and it's never too early to start.

Tips for reading with children of any age

Set aside some time - find somewhere quiet, turn off the TV, radio and computer.

Ask your child to choose a book - sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think

Sit close together - encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.

Point to the pictures - ask your child to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell the story by looking at the pictures.

Encourage your child to talk about the book - talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

Lastly, above all - make it fun! It doesn't matter how to read with a child as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!

Find out more on www.booktrust.org.uk