



# Issue 4



## St. Benedict's Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Environmental

St. Benedict's Eco Committee have been trying to make the school as sustainable as possible this half term. They have been continuing their mission on reducing the amount of plastic the school uses as well as ensuring our paper is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) approved. This means for every tree cut down to make the paper, a new tree is planted. The Eco Committee have also been asking the builders on site lots of questions to ensure materials used in the new classrooms are also FSC approved and that all waste is recycled where possible.

Thank you to everyone who has bought apples from the school apple trees. We do still have a few left, which will be made available to children at playtime, if they wish to buy one for a snack. Apples are still a bargain 10p each!

### Attendance

At St. Benedict's, we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality leads to better outcomes for children. Your child's attendance percentage was shared with you at this term's parents' meetings. Attendance percentages however can be misleading. For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year - that's nearly 4 school weeks.

The chart below explains attendance percentages and the number of absences they equate to:

	Number of Days Missed	
100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor Must prevent further absence to avoid legal action.
85% Attendance	28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor Possibility of legal action.
80% Attendance	38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable Possibility of legal action.
75% Attendance	46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	A serious concern Possibility of legal action.

## Swap Shop

This week, every child in school has visited one of our 'Swap Shops' to choose themselves a book to share with you over the holidays. We hope you enjoy reading together. In January, you are very welcome to pop into the main hall or the entrance hall any day after school to swap the book for a new one. Try to make this part of your weekly routine - reading regularly with your child will improve all aspects of their learning in school and will keep them entertained over the school holidays too.

## Governor Spot

Firstly, we would like to welcome to the Governing Board Eve Cooper. Eve has a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be a valuable addition to existing skill set.

We still have vacancies for 1 Co-opted Governor and 2 Parent Governors, so if you're interested or know someone who might be, please get in contact with the Clerk via the School Office.

The Governing Board would like to thank all Parents for their ongoing support and wish you all a wonderful festive break.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

**SCHOOL WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 12.45PM FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT THE NORMAL TIME.**

## Head Teacher's Message

As we head towards the winter break, I would like to thank you for all of your support you have given us not just over the last term, but particularly over the last few weeks. Our community was devastated at losing Julie Loague, but her legacy will live on in the lives of the children she taught. We would like to wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy holiday. We look forward to working with you all in 2020.  
Armine Williams