



St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School

Egerton Road
Bishopston
Bristol
BS7 8HP

Telephone: 0117 353 2830

Email: st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk

Website: www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk

***“Everything you need to know about
St Bon's!”***

**Information booklet for
2021-22**

‘Striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ’

Welcome from the Headteacher

St. Bonaventure's is a highly regarded Catholic primary school whose aim is to provide a nurturing environment in which every child and adult feels valued. This involves intellectual, social, moral, spiritual and physical development enabling each child to reach their potential.

Care and nurture lie at the heart of St Bonaventure's. Our staff are committed to doing the very best for the pupils in our care. We actively encourage collaboration with parents so we can work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

As a parent, carer or family member with children starting at our school, we want you to feel as comfortable, informed and welcome as possible, and this guide aims to provide you with all of the information you need at this important and exciting time.

St. Bonaventure's is encouraging a culture of digital communication (online, email and text messaging) in order to make engagement between parents/carers and the school quicker, more efficient and more environmentally friendly. We would therefore encourage you to make full use of our website as your primary source of information and to sign up to our School Gateway app to receive messages.

If you have any other questions, needs or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will be delighted to help. You will find our contact details on the front page of this guide.

We wish you and your child a very happy time at St. Bonaventure's.



Mrs Sarah Ballantine MA
Headteacher

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Contacting school: It is a legal requirement for children to attend school - they should not be absent without providing school with an explanation. It is essential that we are informed of any absences by 9.30am either by emailing us at st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk (with "Absence" in the subject heading) or leaving a message on the absence line 0117 353 2831. If we do not hear from you by this time, you will receive an automated text message prompting you to contact us. We do ask that you respond as quickly as possible to let us know the reason for a child's absence so we can fulfill our legal obligations.

Sickness: If your child is not well enough to attend school (e.g. they were sick or have had a high temperature within the past 24 hours) please email st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk or leave a message on the absence line (0117 353 2831) before 8.30am. You only need to call us on the first day of a child's illness – you do not need to phone on subsequent days. Please note that you will need to contact Kidzone on 07760 181381 to inform them separately if your child will not be attending After School Club.

Medical appointments: If your child has to attend a medical appointment (dentist, doctor etc) please provide a note in advance for the teacher. You may be asked to provide us with a copy of the medical certificate / appointment card or letter for your child's file if your child has to attend regular appointments. If your child needs to be removed from St. Bonaventure's during the school day for an appointment, you should come to the school office to sign them out and a member of staff will collect your child for you. To avoid disruption to the school day we would urge parents/carers wherever possible to make appointments outside of school time.

Any other absences: If it is necessary for you to remove your child other than for sickness or a medical appointment, you should complete an Absence Application form at least 2 weeks in advance (unless for emergency reasons). Forms are available from outside the school office or on the school website. Each request will be considered individually by the Headteacher in line with Department for Education guidance and can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Please note we are unable to authorise absence for holidays.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB 'KIDZONE'

'KidZone' is the name of our provision for pre and after school care, known as Breakfast Club (see separate entry) and After School Club. The After School Club is available five days a week from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Advanced booking and payment is required one term in advance and all enquiries should be made through the school office. Information on the current cost of sessions is available on the school website or from outside the school office. For any further enquiries please contact the school office. If you need to cancel a booking on any given day, it is very important that you inform KidZone by ringing their mobile number: 07760 181381 or the school office: 0117 3532830

BEHAVIOUR

At St Bonaventure's children are expected to respect each other, school staff and school property. Our emphasis is on the positive aspects of attitude and behaviour based on Gospel teachings. A copy of our Behaviour Policy is available on our school website or it can be emailed to you upon request.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags are available from the school's uniform supplier Famous School Branches (FSB) based on Henleaze Road. Their website is

<https://store.famousbranches.com/c/2255/St-Bonaventures-Primary>

Book bags are an extremely useful way for young children to carry books to and from school. Any letters sent home are also put in children's book bags so this helps to ensure that all communications reach home. Please check your child's book bag regularly.

BREAKFAST CLUB (ALSO PART OF KIDZONE)

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.50am -8.50am every day. Children are offered a delicious range of food (cereal, toast, bagels, fruit etc) and also activities to do if they finish breakfast early. All enquiries should be made through the school office, where Registration and Booking Forms can be completed. Booking forms can also be found on the school website. Advanced bookings and payment is required two terms in advance. Information on the current cost of sessions is available on the school website or from outside the school office. For any further enquiries please contact the school office.

BULLYING

Good relationships are a strength of our school and children are encouraged to share worries and ask for help. We aim to create an open atmosphere in which reporting incidents of injustice is seen as being responsible rather than telling tales. Staff are vigilant in monitoring bullying behaviour. A copy of our Anti Bullying Policy is available on our school website or a copy can be emailed to you upon request.

CAR PARKING

Please note that parking in the locality of the school is very difficult and so we encourage our families to "park and walk". Please DO NOT use the staff car park and avoid parking in the Parish car park (which does not belong to the school). There is a drop off zone in the Parish car park which can be used before 9.00am. We ask that you do not park in Friary Lane or at the top end of Egerton Road as this creates an unsafe route to school for many of our children, and we encourage parents/carers to act responsibly and to be respectful of our neighbours when parking anywhere in the vicinity of the school. Unless you are a blue badge holder, please do not park in the disabled spaces in the parish car park or the staff car park.

CHILD PROTECTION

At St Bonaventure's we recognise our duty and commitment to ensure the welfare and safety of all children in school. Above all we value the fundamental principle of the Children Act 1989 which states that the welfare of the child is paramount. Please see our website for full policies on safeguarding and child protection.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Sarah Ballantine (Headteacher) and you should contact her in the first instance if you have any concerns. If she is not available, then please contact Steph Woolley (Deputy Head) who is the Deputy DSL

CLUBS

Our extra-curricular clubs are not generally for Reception children, but are aimed at Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) children. St Bonaventure's hosts a wide range of clubs each year with many of them run voluntarily by teachers and staff. A number of clubs are also run by outside agencies and for these clubs you will need to address any queries to the relevant organisation, not the school. Information about all of our clubs is given out at the beginning of the academic year, and termly with our weekly newsletter.

If a club has to be cancelled, we will notify parents via the school newsletter (sent out by email on Fridays), by email or on the school website. Please make sure you refer to these if you are not sure if a club is on.

Our regular after school club, "KidZone", is available five days a week, from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Please contact the school office for further information.

COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS & SUGGESTIONS

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and maintain open and positive relationships. From time to time parents may express concern or make a complaint about some aspect of conduct or operation of the school. Parents can mention any concerns to class teachers or to the Headteacher.

To contact your child's class teacher or the Headteacher, please email the school on st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk marked clearly with yours, your child's and their teacher's name. You should state the nature of your query and whether you would like to be contacted by telephone, via email or would like to set up an appointment to meet with staff, either before or after school.

If you would like to be contacted by telephone please also include your telephone number. Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person who will get back to you within 48 hours unless urgent (when you can expect to be contacted the same day). Alternatively you can telephone the school or attend in person and the office staff will forward your message to the relevant teacher. Most complaints will be dealt with informally but the school has a procedure to ensure that any concern or complaint you may have is properly investigated. A copy of the school's Compliments and Complaints policy can be found on the website.

If you wish to contact a member of the Governing Body you can do this via email as above or if confidential, you should write in and your letter will be passed on to the Clerk to the Governors for onward transmission.

COMMUNICATION (SCHOOL TO PARENTS/CARERS)

St. Bonaventure's is progressively moving towards a culture of electronic communications (web, text messages and email) in order to make engagement between parents/carers and the school quicker, more efficient, and more environmentally friendly. We strongly encourage all parents/carers to provide up to date email addresses and mobile numbers for this purpose (note: any details you provide will not be used for any other purpose or passed to any third parties). Where parents express a preference however, paper copies can be provided as an alternative to electronic communications, and in this instance all letters / communications will be sent home in your child's book bag. Text messages and

EMAILS, THE DROP BOX AND THE TUB

Email is the school's preferred method of communication from parents/carers - see Contact Information (School) above (*except for emergencies when you should telephone the school*).

We recognise however, that email may not always be appropriate or available, and all paper correspondence - and payments - should be deposited in the "Drop Box" outside of the school office. If you have to bring something in for your child (e.g. forgotten lunch box, swimming kit), please tell your child that you will bring it to the school office. Children are told to check here first if they have forgotten any item. It is not normal practice for the office to deliver forgotten items or contact parents to bring in items that children have forgotten.

If your child is unwell and will not be in school, you can email the school or leave a message on the absence line (0117 353 2831).

EVENTS

St Bonaventure's has a very active calendar with events being added throughout the year. For updated information please refer to the school calendar on the school website and the two week list in the weekly school newsletter.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body comprises 14 governors (2 parent governors, 2 staff governors, 1 governor appointed by the Local Authority, 1 co-opted governor and 8 foundation governors appointed by the Bishop of Clifton). The governors volunteer their time and energy to support the school in raising educational standards by acting as a "critical friend" to St. Bonaventure's. Their responsibilities include:

- Working with the Headteacher to determine the overall direction of the school
- Overseeing the budget
- Helping to recruit staff
- Monitoring school performance
- Advising on, and maintaining school policy and procedures.

Further details about the work the governors do is available on the school website under 'Information / Governors'.

HOUSES

From Year 1 upwards, all children at St Bonaventure's are allocated to one of four houses, St Andrew's, St Patrick's, St George's and St David's. Children will be informed about which house they will belong to once they move into Year 1. They will usually be placed in the same house as their siblings if they have them.

INSET DAYS

The school holds 5 in service (Inset) days each academic year. The school will be closed to children to allow for staff training on Inset days – details of these are published in the school calendar on the website and are available in newsletters and in the Parent section of our website.

INTERNET

There is internet access throughout the school and all year groups have access to a bank of 30 tablets. Children are taught about e-safety and how to keep themselves safe whilst online.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

If your child has a chronic medical condition that will require St. Bonaventure's to hold medication for them (e.g. asthma, allergies etc.) you will need to let us have a Health Care Plan and a completed Administration of Medicines Permission Form to enable us to administer medicine during the school day. Copies of these forms can be obtained via our website or from the school office. Please note that in line with our Administration of Medicines Policy we can only administer prescribed medication for chronic conditions and not short-term courses e.g. antibiotics. Should you wish your child to have any other type of medicine, we are happy to make arrangements for you to attend the school to administer the medicine to your child.

MILK

All children are entitled to a 1/3 pint carton of milk until the day of their 5th birthday (if your child does not drink milk, please inform their teacher so that they can be provided with water instead). Once a child reaches the age of five, you can arrange for them to continue to have milk by ordering online at www.schoolmilkservices.co.uk or contacting School Milk Services Ltd, Manor Farm, Collum Lane, Kewstoke, BS22 9JL (Tel: 01934 510950). You will be required to pay the milk provider directly: they will send the milk to school with a list of who is to have it and the school will ensure it is distributed during morning break.

MUSIC LESSONS

We offer private guitar, violin, piano and brass lessons at St. Bonaventure's in addition to our curriculum recorder lessons. Guitar, violin and brass lessons are taught in groups and piano lessons are taught individually. Information about classes including the current cost is available on the Parent section of the school website. We do not normally advise that children start music lessons until at least Year 2, and for Brass it is important that children have their adult front teeth so usually begin in Year 3. There are currently waiting lists for all instruments - if you would like your child to be placed on the waiting list please contact the school office. We will then contact you when a space becomes available. You will need to pay for lessons in advance to secure your place.

NEWSLETTER

A weekly newsletter is written and circulated every Friday via email to keep you informed of what is going on in school. It is also published on our website in the Parent section. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please let the school office know and we will check that we have an up to date email address for you. We also keep paper copies in the office if you prefer.

OFSTED

St. Bonaventure's last Ofsted Inspection took place in February 2017. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be 'Good'. Here are some extracts from the report:

"The shared commitment to educating the 'whole child' shines through wherever you step. It is a distinctive feature of the school and was one of the strengths that parents singled out when I spoke to them before school started."

"There is an excited buzz in the playground as pupils gather before school."

Our most recent Diocesan Inspection took place in October 2018 when we were judged to be 'Outstanding'.

OUTDOOR CURRICULUM

Our children go outside in all weathers! Please ensure that your children have suitable clothing for outdoor activities (hats, coats, gloves in winter and caps in the summer). When the weather is very sunny and hot, please also make sure you give your child an application of all-day high factor sun cream (we do not hold sun cream in school and are not able to apply it to children).

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Parents' evenings take place twice a year, between 16.00–19.00 on two evenings in October and March. You will be informed of exact dates and invited to express an appointment time preference prior to each one taking place.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

St. Bonaventure's encourages all parents/carers to be fully involved in their child's education and as such you are welcome to come into school to help in the classroom and give any broader assistance you may be able to offer the school, whatever your area of expertise. See 'Volunteering' below.

PAYMENTS

There will be a number of things that require payment throughout your child's career with us, namely school meals (from year 3), residential camps, trips, music lessons, after school club etc. The school does not send out invoices and therefore expects all parents/carers to make payments in a timely fashion.

Payments to the school can be made in the following ways:

- Online – via School Gateway. You will receive a letter in your pack about this with instructions about how to sign up for the app on your mobile or tablet.
- Cash – please put money in a sealed envelope (available in the office), stating clearly what it is for, your child's name and class and placing it in the 'Drop Box'. Please request a receipt for amounts above £5.

- Cheque – state clearly on the reverse what it is for, your child’s name and class and place in the Drop Box (it does not need to be put in an envelope). Cheques should be made payable to ‘Bristol City Council’ please, unless otherwise stated.

The Governing Body reserves the right to apply an administration fee of £5 for the second and each successive reminder letter sent home regarding an outstanding debt. The application of an administration fee of £5 also applies in the case of second and successive reminders for the collection of school meal charges.

PE (PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

Children will require a PE kit consisting of a pair of navy shorts, white St Bon’s logo crew neck t-shirt (not school polo shirt) and trainers (warm navy blue track suits may be worn in cold weather). These items should be kept at school in a named PE bag.

Children also go swimming at Horfield Leisure Centre from Year 2, and you will be notified which term this will be in. Costumes (1 piece) for girls, swimming trunks (no baggy shorts) for boys, towels, hats and goggles are required. Please ensure that all items are clearly named.

POLICIES

Copies of all school policies are available on the ‘Information’ section of the school website www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk If you cannot find what you are looking for please email the school and ask for a copy to be sent to you.

PTFA (PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION)

The PTFA is a group of parents, teachers and friends who work together to raise funds for the school. You automatically become a member of the PTFA when your child joins the school. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, information on who to contact is available on the school website and in newsletters.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & CHURCH VISITS

Religious Education is seen very much as a way of life led by children and staff. To enable our children to grow in the knowledge of their faith, they follow the ‘God Matters’ RE Scheme of Work. Attending mass is also an important aspect of school life and important events of the Liturgical Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and main Saints’ Days - are celebrated. Knowledge and understanding of other faiths and cultural traditions is part of the RE curriculum.

SCHOOL DAY

Covid restrictions have affected our school day therefore we will publish our plans for September after the Covid update on 21 June 2021. Naormally the school day starts with the bell at 8.50am, with break time at 10.30am and lunch from 12.15pm to 1.15pm. Years Reception to Year 2 also have a 15 minute break at 2.30pm. School ends at 3.15pm. The playground is supervised from 8.30am and children should be on the playground by 8.45am to ensure they can line up in their classes and with their teachers, promptly at 8.50am. The day starts with a school prayer on the playground after the bell has been

rung. If you arrive after the bell has rung please encourage your child to stop and join in the prayer before joining their line.

The words of the prayer are: "*O my God I give to you all I think and say and do. All my work and all my play I will give to you today.*"

SCHOOL DINNERS

Your child may bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner.

Packed lunch: St Bonaventure's is a Healthy Eating, nut free school so if you are providing your child with a packed lunch it should contain healthy foods such as sandwiches, yoghurts, fresh fruit, cereal bars etc. – paying particular attention that none of the food items contain nuts. We do not allow sweets or chocolate.

School dinners: Children in years Reception to Year 2 are eligible for universal free school meals. Children in years 3-6 must pay for their meals – these cost £2.15 per day. Meals must be paid for in advance, either on the Monday of each week, or monthly or termly. A copy of the school menu is available from outside the school office and on the website. Cheques should be made payable to Bristol City Council and marked clearly with "School lunches" and your child's name and class. If you are paying for several siblings with one cheque, the amount per child, and their class, should be stated on the reverse: for example:

Harry Thompson RH £10.50
Sarah Thompson 3T £6.30
Aaron Thompson: 6GW £2.10

When the teacher takes the register in the morning she/he will ask each child if they are having a packed lunch or school dinner. Cold, vegetarian and jacket potato options are available as well as hot meat meals - if your child is a vegetarian you must inform the school in writing at the beginning of the school year to ensure that they are guaranteed to be given the vegetarian option (also see DIETARY REQUIREMENTS above). If your child does not usually follow a vegetarian diet, but would like a vegetarian meal on a particular day, they just need to inform their teacher at registration.

SCHOOL TRIPS

To avoid unnecessary administration, St. Bonaventure's asks all parents/carers to complete an Educational Visits Consent Form at the start of each academic year to cover all off-site visits (except Residential trips). Parents/carers are notified of all trips in advance. Please complete this form and return to St. Bonaventure's. Please notify the school immediately of any changes. To assist the school with the costs of these trips, a 'one off' payment (OOP) will be asked for at the beginning of each academic year. This is a voluntary payment, and no child will be excluded from a trip if their parents have not paid, however trips may not be able to go ahead if sufficient monies are not collected. You may contact the Headteacher or School Business Manager in strictest confidence if you are unable to contribute due to financial hardship and the school will do its utmost to help you.

SICKNESS

Please see section entitled 'Absences from school'.

SNACKS

Children may bring in a snack for morning playtime. This can be a piece of fruit, raw vegetable or a cereal bar (chocolate and sweets are not allowed). We operate a 'no nuts' policy so please ensure that snacks do not contain nuts. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a free piece of fruit at morning break each day as part of the Government's free fruit scheme.

SPORTS DAY

Sports days usually take place towards the end of Term 6 (early / mid July) and start at 9am in the morning. We hold a separate morning for children in Reception/KS1 and children in KS2. Details of actual dates (including a reserve date if the weather is not suitable on the first date) are available on the school calendar which can be found on the website.

TERM DATES 2021 - 22

Term 1: Thursday 2 September 2021 to Friday 22 October 2021

Inset: Thursday 2 and Friday 3 September (children do not attend school)

Term 2: Monday 1 November 2021 to Friday 17 December 2021

Term 3: Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Inset: Tuesday 4 January (children do not attend school)

Term 4: Monday 28 February 2022 to Friday 8 April 2022

Term 5: Monday 25 April 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022

Bank holiday: Monday 2 May 2022 (children do not attend school)

Term 6: Monday 6 June 2022 to Friday 22 July 2022

Please note the remaining 2 Inset dates will be published later in the year.

TIMETABLE

Reception children will attend part time for the first two weeks, either in the mornings during the first week and afternoons in the second week or vice versa. During the third week children will attend extended morning sessions including lunch and finish at 13.45. Children will begin full time education at the beginning of the fourth week.

All other joiners will attend full time and will be informed of their timetable by their class teacher.

UNIFORM

Children should wear navy blue or dark grey trousers/skirt/tunic, white or navy blue polo shirts, and a navy blue St. Bonaventure's sweatshirt or cardigan. Black shoes must be worn. Polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans are available for purchase from the school's

uniform supplier Famous School Branches (FSB). You can purchase items online at <https://store.famousbranches.com/c/2255/St-Bonaventures-Primary>. All other uniform can be purchased from high street retailers.

VOLUNTEERING AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S

St. Bonaventure's encourages help from all parents/carers and those willing/able to do so must read and sign a copy of the "Guidelines for Volunteer Helpers" (available in the school office). You will also need to be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service, and this can be arranged via the school office. There is a fee charged by the DBS which the volunteer will need to pay. This is currently £18.

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

St. Bonaventure's is moving to a culture of online communications and we promote the website as the primary source of information for parents/carers and children.

The website includes the school calendar and school / Local Authority policies, plus information on clubs, trips, events, staff, governors, admissions and so on and we encourage you to use it regularly and provide feedback to help us continuously improve.

You and your child will also be provided with a dedicated login so that you can access information relevant to your child's class through the school website.

USEFUL INFORMATION

School website: www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk

Absence line: 0117 353 2831 (24 hour answerphone)

School office: 0117 353 2830

School calendar: Visit the school website Calendar tab.

School Gateway: www.schoolcomms.com or download the app via App Store or Google Play Store.

This is for online payments for school dinners, music lessons, after school and breakfast clubs, holiday playschemes and school trips. It also enables us to contact you via messaging for free rather than having to pay for text messages. (Please note that you must enable push notifications for these to be visible.)