



Thursday 3rd April 2025

Dear parents and carers,

*As I close my hands in prayer,
An awesome power fills the air.
Feel his presence; feel his glory,
The one who writes and ends your story.
He is clothed in majesty,
A power man can never see.
All our sins he will abide,
His son, The Lamb, stood by his side.
How great is our God, Lord of Earth,
Who sent his son to give us second birth.*

Written by Arthur, year 6 pupil.

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported our Easter festival today. It was great to see so many of you at the Easter bonnet parade. Thank you for supporting your children to rehearse and prepare for their performing arts and creative arts entries: Easter gardens, hats, artwork and decorated eggs. We really appreciate how much effort the children have put into this day.



Crowning of Mary service

We will be holding our annual Crowning of Mary service in school on Thursday 1st May. Our oldest and youngest pupils will crown a statue of Our Lady, Mary, with flowers in a service that takes place within the school day.

Looking ahead to next term, and our Crowning of Mary in the second week, we launched an exciting art and craft competition yesterday to keep those creative sparks flying over the Easter holidays. We explored images of Mary from different cultures, seeing the many ways she has been portrayed throughout the world. The children have been asked to create their own artwork, in any medium they choose - collage, clay, paint, natural materials - to show their idea of who Mary is to them. Please send these wonderful creations into school by the end of the first week back. The chosen artworks will play a special part in our Crowning of Mary service at the start of May.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 22nd April first day of term 5 for all pupils.
- Friday 25th April Start of term Mass
- Thursday 1st May Crowning of Mary service all pupils invited to bring flowers to school today
- Thursday 1st May parents evening for Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 parents/carers
- Friday 2nd May SEND parent/carer support group SEND & You facilitating. All parents/carers welcome to attend.
- Monday 5th May Bank holiday school closed to all pupils
- Tuesday 6th May parents evening for Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 parents/carers
- Friday 9th May parents/carer School Improvement Session
- WB: 12th May KS2 SATS week
- Friday 23rd May end of term 5.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

St Bons; Faith in action this week

What a powerful final week of term it's been, truly embracing our Catholic life here at St Bons as we journey towards the joy of Easter! Our wonderful chaplaincy team really led the way, guiding us in thoughtful reflection and prayer.

Monday saw a beautiful start with our Lent reflection, centred around the final object in each classes 'Lent in a Bag', the candle. The children spent time considering how they, like Jesus, can let their own lights shine brightly in the world..

On Tuesday, the school community came together for our moving Stations of the Cross service. Our Year 5 chaplaincy brought each station to life with carefully prepared freeze frames. Two of our chaplains then led us in thoughtful reflections, helping us to connect with Jesus's journey to the cross and think about the challenges we face in our own lives. It was so insightful to hear the children's reflections afterwards in class. They particularly appreciated the "time to be quiet," the "prayerful atmosphere," and the thought-provoking "questions they asked us to think about." The "freeze frames" and the overall "quiet and calm" also resonated deeply with them.

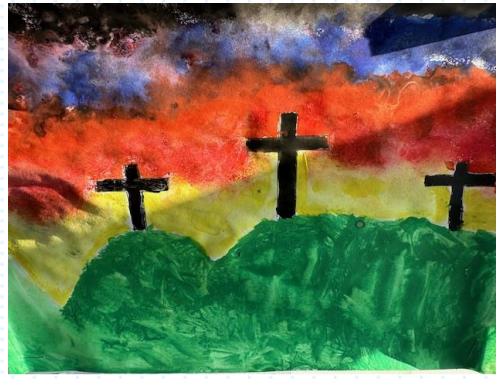
Monday was also a day for action as we embarked on our Big Lent Walk, a key part of our Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope journey. It was inspiring to see all the children, staff, and some of our parishioners walking in solidarity with communities supported by CAFOD. Carrying those buckets of water really brought home the challenges faced by so many. We are thrilled to announce that we collectively walked over 1000km and have already raised a fantastic £275! Let's keep that generosity flowing and help us reach our target - every little bit makes a difference!

Our journey continued on Wednesday as the whole school gathered at church for our Passiontide Mass. It was a truly special occasion, made even more so by the thoughtful Year 5 chaplains who had created Easter cards for our parishioners. These cards were blessed at the offertory, and given out by the chaplains at the end of Mass. Mgr Barnard shared some insights with the children about the Beatitudes, reminding us that when we make the sign of the cross, we are asking for God's help to let our lights shine and follow in Jesus's footsteps.

Today Our Easter Festival has been a vibrant celebration of creativity and community spirit. From beautifully decorated Easter eggs and carefully crafted Easter gardens to stunning artwork, the children's talents have been on full display. And of course, the Easter bonnet parade this morning was an absolute joy! Throughout the day, the energy has been fantastic as the houses competed in singing, poetry, and dancing - definitely a day where everyone let their lights shine!

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter break filled with light and hope! We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for another term of learning and growing together in faith.





UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning Tuesday 22nd April (week 1 new menu)

Tuesday 22nd - First day of term 5

Wednesday 23rd - St Georges day - house wear red

Friday 25th - Start of term mass 9:15 - parents mass

- PTFA Quiz night
- Year 1 bake sale

Week beginning Monday 29th April

Tuesday 29th - year 3 swimming

Thursday 1st - parents evening

- Crowning of Mary

Friday 2nd - SEND parent/carers support group meeting 9:00-10:00

- Year 2 cake sale

Dates
for your



Running & Walking Club

Do you want to get fit and have fun at the same time?!

Wednesday mornings at 7:50

Meet outside the office foyer

Children and adults welcome

For runners and walkers of all abilities

On Monday 31st March St Bonaventure's School walked over 1000km in aid of The Big Lent walk raising money to help CAFOD support communities in Africa impacted by climate change.

If you have not yet sponsored the children please do contribute to our Just Giving page.

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-bonaventures-fundraising-page>



Extreme Reading Competition

The theme for World Book Day this year is: Read Your Way. As part of this, we are running an Extreme Reading Competition!

Children can take part by having a photo of them reading in a fun place. Be as imaginative as you can! Certificates will be given to everyone who participates and an overall winner will be chosen for KS1 and KS2

Please send entries via email to st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk for attention of Mrs Reeves, the deadline for entries is Tuesday 22nd April – making this a great Easter holiday activity.



READ YOUR WAY



EAL (English as an additional language) Coffee mornings.
Every Wednesday 9:00-10:00 Please come along to the office and sign in.

If English is not your first language, please come along and join us for our weekly EAL coffee mornings.
All parents and carers are very welcome. This is a great chance to meet other parents, ask questions and be part of your child's learning.
Feel involved in the school life and up to date with what's going on in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The group is run By Mrs Cela- if you would like more information, please email her at Esmeralda.cela@bristol-schools.uk





Easter Playscheme Taking Bookings Now

Craft



Role Play



Outdoor
Play



Baking

Games 

7th- 11th and 14th-17th April 2025

Full day 8:30 – 5:45 £33, Short day 10:00 – 4:00 £26

Open for children aged 4 -11 years.

Please see the school website for the full
rota of activities

[St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School - Easter
Playscheme 2025](#)

Please contact the play team or visit the website for further
information.



Feeling refreshed!

Thank you to all those who supported our Spring Refresh event! It was a fabulous evening focusing on women's wellness. We heard from the experts and had time for mingling, preloved fashion shopping, raffle ticket buying, and refreshments. We also raised an amazing £1,000 !!!

Emily Richardson from [Refocus Hypnotherapy](#), led us through calming guided breathing exercises. Wellness expert [Rachel Joshi](#) shared insightful tips on how to prioritise wellbeing. Tayler, from [Sense of Self](#), introduced us to the benefits of pilates and yoga. [Karen Maurice](#) and [Becky Barnes](#) shared expert advice on how to embrace our unique styles with confidence; and [Sarah Sampson](#) inspired us to simplify our spaces.



Quiz: The quiz will be on Friday 25 April from 7-10pm (the first Friday back after the Easter holidays so why not get ahead of that first week back at school, and book your tickets now!

Quizmaster Matt is back in the driving seat, so buckle up for an evening filled with fun, trivia, music, and prizes. Prepare for laughs, easy questions, random facts, a few 'guess the nearest' and 'multiple choice' rounds. The bar opens at 7pm (for a 7.30pm start) and there'll be snacks available too. We'll aim to finish by 10pm. Teams can be up to 6 people, but you don't have to form a team beforehand to come along. We'll make sure we find a team for you to join on the night. Feel free to bring your friends along too. The more the merrier! [Find out more and book tickets.](#)



Golden ticket winners: Our very own golden ticket winners from our Wonderlicious events received a Roald Dahl book each, and some Waterstones goodies, during a special school assembly last week. See the book prizes being unveiled in our [Instagram reel](#). We can't wait to hear all about their fantastical prizes and experiences next term! Special thanks to those parent volunteers who will be helping to make the prizes happen next term:

Summer fair: If you would like to be part of the summer fair planning team looking for sponsorship / donations and coming up with ideas for stalls, please get in touch and we can add you to the team Whatsapp group (contact@stbonsptfa.com).

PTFA meeting: [Read the minutes](#) from our last meeting on 6 March and come along to our next meeting on **Thursday 24 April at 8pm** online. Meeting details will be circulated nearer the time. All are welcome.

Dates for your diary: We've got some great [events](#) lined up:

- ✚ **Bake sales:** It's the year 1 bake sale on Friday 25 April.
- ✚ **Quiz night:** Friday 25 April
- ✚ **Discos:** Friday 16 May
- ✚ **Frozen Fridays:** May to July
- ✚ **Summer Fair:** Sunday 22 June, 2-5pm
- ✚ **Sports Day refreshments:** 8 and 9 July.



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The children of the local Moon River Nursery took a trip to St Bonaventure's church recently and were intrigued when they saw all the shelves of food at the back of the room - was it a shop perhaps? Of course, they'd spotted our Community Food Pantry! It was a great opportunity to discuss how we can help others with simple, everyday actions and the children decided they wanted to contribute too. Thank you to the staff at Moon River for helping to organise a collection of food for the pantry, we're so grateful to have your support!

For those in need, the Pantry is open between 8am - 5pm every day except Monday.

Please donate:

Tinned meat meals

Tinned vegetarian or vegan meals

Tinned fruit

Tinned tuna and other tinned fish

Washing up liquid

Shampoo

Please DO NOT donate:

Fresh food (we can't safely store it and it will go to waste)

Where do I leave food donations?

Please put **food donations** either in the **clear box labelled "Community Food Pantry Donation Box"** at the **back of the church** or in the **box outside the front door of the Presbytery**.

How do I donate money?

There is a "Food Pantry" button on the Donation Point inside the church if you would like to make monetary donations by card. Or you can give cash to Mgr. Massey or put it in an envelope through Trish's door at 55 Egerton Road.

Community News

All Saints Academy in Cheltenham are advertising for a school Chaplain; [VACANCIES | Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges](#)