

PRIMARY SCHOOL

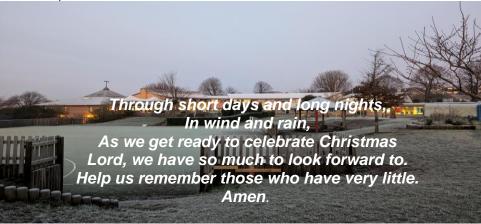
Striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ

BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC

Email st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk Email admissions stbonaventures@bristol-schools.uk

Friday 29th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,



I would like to express my sincere thanks to the team of volunteers, some of whom are St Bons parents, who planned and facilitated a pop-up prayer space for our year 5 and 6 pupils on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The children were able to take time out of their busy day to reflect and engage in activities. This is something we want to provide more opportunities for.



School car park

Please can I ask that all parents/carers leave the school premise by 3.30pm to allow staff to safely leave the school site in their vehicles. There have been occasions recently where parents and their children have been playing in the carpark as staff are leaving and this poses a health and safety risk. Thank you.

Things are about to get very busy in school. Please can I urge you all to add the key dates for the reminding three weeks to your personal diaries.

Key dates for your diary:

- Friday 6th December 9-10am parent/carer school improvement plan session with head teacher. No need to book, simply come along and sign in with the office.
- Friday 6th December bring a bottle to school for the Christmas fair bottle stall in exchange for wearing your own clothes.
- Sunday 8th December 2-5pm St Bons Christmas Fair.
- Wednesday 11th December pupils Christmas dinner. If you do not book a meal for your child you will need to provide a packed lunch.
- Friday 13th December 9-10am SEND parent/carer group meeting.
- WB: 16th December Reception and KS1 nativity performances. Please see your allocated tickets for date and time.
- Tuesday 17th December KS2 Family Carols 6.30pm on the playground.
- Friday 20th December 9.15am Advent Mass in church.

Best. Sarah Ballantine Head teacher

Celebrating Catholic Life at St. Bonaventure's!

This week at St. Bon's has been a special one, filled with opportunities for prayer, learning, and community.

Pop-Up Prayer Space

We were incredibly fortunate to have volunteers from local churches set up a pop-up prayer space for our Year 5 and 6 pupils. This unique experience allowed our children to explore their faith in a reflective and personal way. The sessions began with a discussion about prayer and reflection, followed by visits to ten prayer stations. These stations invited pupils to contemplate global issues and personal concerns. The children's feedback was truly inspiring:

- "You know God is with you in this room."
- "I liked the quiet, there was no rush to do the activities."
- "You can reset here."
- "Things you are afraid to say out loud you can say to God in your heart in here."
- "Good to have space to let out your worries."
- "I love how calm it was. It made me think about what I need help with."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents and volunteers who made this extraordinary experience possible. We look forward to creating similar opportunities for other year groups in the future.



Celebrating the Word

This week, we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King. We reflected on the unique kingship of Jesus and prayed that He would reign in our hearts. The children considered the difference it would make to our lives if Jesus was the king of our hearts.

St Andrews Day

Today in school we commemorated St. Andrew's Day. Our enthusiastic house captains led a special assembly, sharing the story of St. Andrew and discussing how his life can inspire us today. The assembly concluded with a Scottish dancing demonstration followed by whole school dancing on the playground. After break the house captains delivered home made shortbread to the children in St. Andrew's House.



Living Out Our Faith

Our classes have been continuing to explore Catholic Social Teaching principles and expressing their developing understanding through art. Year 1's artwork tree beautifully represents human dignity and that we are all special and unique individuals. Year 4's artistic creations delve deeper into the principle of "Love Thy Neighbour" showing CST principles of Family and community, Human Dignity and Rights and Responsibilities.

We are proud of our pupils' commitment to exploring and living out their faith to make a positive impact on the world.

UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning 2nd December (*Menu week 2*)

Monday 2nd - Bristol Old Vic performance

Tuesday 3rd - Year 6 swimming

Wednesday 4th - Year 3 stone age day

Friday 6th - Bring a bottle for Christmas fair- wear home clothes

Sunday 8th- Christmas fair 2:00-5:00

W/B 9th December

Tuesday 10th- year 5 swimming

Wednesday 11th - Christmas lunch - wear Christmas jumpers with unifom

Friday 13th - SEND parent/carer support session 9:00-10:00



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





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

Well done to our year 6 rugby team who played on Wednesday and are now North west tag rugby champions.



Sports and clubs at St Bons

Sport and club's - week starting 2nd December



Please fill out a club permission slip from the office to register your child to a club.

If your child is signed up for a club but won't be attending at any point please let the office know.

Club	Is it running	Day and year group
Netball	YES YES	Monday - year 3&4 Tuesday - year 5&6
Hockey	YES	Friday- Year 5&6 - 3:20 - 4:30 Paid club Booked through Mrs Hinkins
Gymnastics	YES	Tuesday 3:20-4:20 Year 3 & 4 Club full and running a waiting list.
Circuits	NO	Thursdays - Y's 2-6 - 8:00am in hall with Mr Morgan
Drama	YES	Monday- 3:20-4:20 see schedule for characters needed Thursday 3:20- 5:00 Those who recieved an email
Running club	YES	Wednesday - 7.45am - all welcome - meet outside foyer.
Bench ball	YES	Friday -Year 4 & 5 - 8:00-8:30
Football	NO	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 - Girls training
Rugby	YES	Thursday - 8:00 - 8:30 year 5 & 6
Chess Lunch break		Friday Year 5&6 - lunchtime





It's the Christmas Fair next Sunday 8 December, 2-5pm!

Next week we'll still be taking any donations and raffle tickets, selling fair tokens at drop off and pick up, and looking for volunteers (and cakes), plus it's non uniform on Friday in exchange for a bottle. Good luck everyone, remember it's all for an amazing cause! Read more about what to expect at the fair, and buy your fair tickets now.

How you can help...

- There's still time to donate goodie bags and pre-loved toys donations before the fair. Please leave any further donations in the boxes next to the school office:
 - o **Goodie bags:** These are hugely popular at the fair! Please fill a party or gift bag / paper envelope or similar with small treats, toys, or stationery -anything you think another child might like.
 - o **Pre-loved toy donations:** Please donate any toys, puzzles or games in excellent condition which you feel another child would enjoy we would kindly request a maximum of 3 donated items per family to avoid being overwhelmed with toys which we don't have space to store! **No baby or toddler toys please**.
- Bottle stall donations & non-uniform, Fri 6 Dec: Please donate a bottle of something unopened, in date and that you would drink yourself for the ever popular bottle stall run by our wonderful teaching team! Bring to school drop off on Friday 6 December. In return for a donation on that day, children can come to school in non-uniform.
- Cakes, Sun 8 Dec: Please donate nut-free cakes or biscuits to sell at the fair, and also consider entering your homemade delights into our Christmas Bake Off Competition with prizes kindly donated by Joe's Bakery! If possible please include a list of ingredients for homemade items (shop bought donations are also welcome!) and label any entries into the Bake Off competition. Please bring them to the hall before 2pm on the day of the fair, Sunday 8 December.
- **Volunteering on stalls:** Some class rotas still have gaps which means those stalls won't be able to run during those times. Any time you can give at the fair would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help we can't run the fair without you!
- **Raffle tickets:** Each family should have been provided with raffle tickets for the fantastic Christmas Hamper Raffle with 14 magnificent hampers to be won. Tickets are £1 each. Please sell as many of the tickets as you can. Return the money, completed ticket stubs (the part that you fill in) and any unsold tickets to the office or put in the collection box outside the main school doors by 9am on Friday 6 December, or return at the fair. More tickets are available from the school office or at the fair.
- **Hamper items:** Thanks to everyone who sent in Christmas hamper items. If you still have items to donate, please get in touch with your class rep ASAP.
- **Payment:** Payment for games and stalls at the fair will be via pre-paid tokens. If you want to get really organised and avoid the queues at the fair, you can also buy your tokens in advance online, when you buy your fair tickets. We will also be selling tokens next week outside the school gates at drop off and pick up, and at the fair (at the token sales point near the entrance). We can also take cash at the fair, and at some stalls such as the bar, we'll be able to take payment by card/contactless.

Fair programme:

- Doors open: **2pm** (although those setting up will need to be ready for people arriving from 1.45pm)
- o School choir (KS1 and KS2): 3pm
- o Hamper raffle winners announced, & name the Giant Elf winner: **4pm**
- o Silent auction closes at 4pm, and winners announced **4.15pm**
- Fair closes: 5pm

There's a lot going on as we prepare for the fair, so please ask your class rep if anything is unclear, or get in touch with us (contact@stbonsptfa.com)!



Silent auction: We've added even more prizes to our online Christmas silent auction. <u>Bid now</u> for items such as lunch for two at the Pig, a £50 voucher for the Wave, a signed Bristol Rovers top, family tickets to Aerospace and the Avon Valley Railway, gardening, forest school, wellbeing coaching, holiday club sessions, golf and plenty more. Bid now - you've got to be in it to win it!!

Christmas shop: Our Christmas shop on My Child's Art has made an amazing £475 so far. Thank you to all who have purchased. There is still time to buy goodies and receive them with plenty of time before Christmas. Just follow this link, or visit the My Child's Art website and log in with the user name StBonaventures and access code this link, or visit the My Child's Art website and log in with the user name

Pre-loved uniform: The shed is open all day, Monday to Friday, so feel free to pop in whenever you can. **We are currently in need of cardigans with the St Bon's logo**. Please bring any donations to the school office and not the shed - many thanks. <u>Take the shed tour now!</u>

Dates for your diary (Read our blog for all the dates and details! Also see our Instagram reel):

- Pre-loved uniform shed: Open all day, Monday to Friday, so feel free to pop in whenever you can.
- Christmas Fair: Sunday 8 December, from 2-5pm
- ♣ PTFA social: Thursday 12 December, 8pm. We've booked a space in the Gloucester Old Spot on Kellaway Avenue. All are welcome. Please do come along and say hello, we would love to see you.
- Refreshments for KS2 family carols: Tuesday 17 December, 6.30pm.





Applications are open on you LA website for Reception 2025. The deadline for applications is 15th January.

We still have spaces on our open days if you would like a tour of the school, please find dates on our website and book with the office.

Community News

Soccer shooters are offering a free taster session of their inclusive football classes on Tuesday 10th Dec 5-6pm at Redland Green sports hall

These are catered to children aged 5-10 years old who struggle with 'standard' football classes for any reason. Sessions are adapted to the needs of those who attend.

For more information visit CONTACT | Soccer Shooters

There are currently places for 10 -11 year olds at first Bishopston Scouts on Mondays and Fridays- for more information please email bishopstonscouts@gmail.com

St Bons prayer group

If you would like to join other parents / carers of St Bons to support our school community in prayer, we have a new informal prayer group meeting once a month, 9-9.30am in the Presbytery on the following dates:

- Tues 10th Dec
- Fri 24th Jan
- Thurs 13th Feb

We would LOVE to see you there! More info, message Lorna on 07855108729

St Bon's Brownies meets on a Monday evening from 6.30 to 8pm in the Parish Hall and has vacancies for new Brownies. If you have a daughter in Year 2 or above and would like your daughter to join the parish Brownie group, please contact stbonsbrownies@gmail.com