



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Pope Francis on Monday. We marked his death in school by sharing a reflection on his life. We invite you all to spend time in prayer for Pope Francis:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the life of Pope Francis and ask that you open our hearts and minds to his message of love and compassion for all of creation.

We ask that his words always inspire us to help make the world a better place.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Amen.



I hope you have all had a good Easter break. We have enjoyed welcoming the children back to school this week.

### **Pupil absence during term time**

Please can I remind all parents and carers that it is only the headteacher of the school who can authorise pupil absence. If you have any requests to take your child out of school for any reason these need to be put in writing to myself via the school office FOA Leonne Ward, attendance administrator.

### **Catholic Life parent/carer survey**

Thank you to everyone who has completed our Catholic Life parent/carer survey this week. If you haven't yet had the chance, there is still time for you to engage. Please use the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwJoYvgx3ZoxAWCg3dihiHN\\_vq1ai2RcgAWiVBymctkif-9w/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwJoYvgx3ZoxAWCg3dihiHN_vq1ai2RcgAWiVBymctkif-9w/viewform?usp=header)

We will be using your responses to help inform future provision and priorities.

### **Dates to note:**

- **Thursday 1st May Crowning of Mary Service. All pupils are invited to bring flowers into school to present to our statue of Mary.**
- Thursday 1st May Parents evening for Reception & Years 1-5.
- Friday 2nd May 9-10am parent/carer SEND group facilitated by SEND & You.
- Monday 5th May school closed Bank Holiday Monday.
- Tuesday 6th May Parents evening for Reception and Year 1-5.
- Friday 9th May parent/carer school improvement session 9-10am.
- WB: Monday 12th May KS2 SATS week.
- Friday 23rd May end of term 5.

Best,  
Sarah Ballantine  
Principal  
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

## St. Bons Catholic Life - A Week of Reflection and Hope

It has been a poignant start to the new term here at St. Bons. We returned on Monday to the sad news of the passing of Pope Francis. Our school community gathered for a special assembly where we watched a short film celebrating his life and the profound inspiration he offered to us all. At the entrance to our school, we have created a reflection area, a quiet space for us to remember Pope Francis and his enduring legacy. As Jacob, one of our thoughtful Year 5 chaplains, shared in our meeting this week, "We need to carry on his good work and mission as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year."

This sentiment resonated during our school Mass today, where Mgr. Bernard spoke about Pope Francis' humility and the simple life he embraced, a powerful example for us all.

Our spiritual journey continued on Tuesday with an assembly focused on Mark's Gospel and the powerful scripture of the women at Jesus' tomb discovering his resurrection. The children thoughtfully reflected on the emotions of Jesus' disciples at that moment and the profound impact the resurrection has on Jesus' followers today. The overwhelming message was one of hope, a theme that has continued to inspire our child-led reflections in classrooms throughout the week.

Wednesday brought a splash of red to St. Bons as we celebrated St George's Day. Our enthusiastic house captains led a wonderful assembly, sharing details about the life of St George and the diverse ways his feast day is celebrated across the globe. They even brought the legendary tale of St George and the dragon to life through drama and treated us to a lively demonstration of traditional English Morris dancing, complete with bells and sticks – an energetic performance that inspired Year 1 to try their own moves in the afternoon! Reflecting on our school saints always reminds us of how they lived out their faith, hope, and love, offering us inspiration for our own lives, and our house captains certainly helped us to do just that.

Year 4 enjoyed a special visit this week from volunteers from the local B&A church, who led an engaging "Easter in a box" session. Through a series of interactive activities, the children explored the key events of Easter and were delighted to take home their own Easter treasure boxes filled with meaningful reminders of the Easter story.

Following our pre-holiday art competition, I have been so impressed by the beautiful images of Mary created by the children. Many included heartfelt prayers, inspiring scripture quotes, and thoughtful descriptions of her wonderful qualities. Some of these artistic expressions will feature in our Crowning of Mary service next Thursday, while others will be displayed around the school throughout May.

In this week's **Chaplains' Chatter**:

- Woody from Year 6 is making an appeal for your support for the Year 6 sports equipment sale next week. The proceeds will go to the Cheslin Kolbe Foundation, which provides access to sport for vulnerable individuals.
- Lorenzo, a Year 5 chaplain, is asking for any final donations to our CAFOD Big Lent Walk fundraising, following our school walk in the last week of last term. Your generosity will make a real difference.

Looking ahead, our whole school Gospel Value for Terms 5 and 6 is **Care for our Common Home**, guided by the Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Stewardship**. In exciting news, the PTFA have kindly funded gardening kits for every class! As part of our Jubilee year as Pilgrims of Hope, each class will be planting their own "seeds of kindness." We will be launching this initiative in our assembly on Monday, and all the children will have the opportunity to plant their seeds next week. They will nurture their seedlings in the greenhouse until they are ready to be planted in class pots, bringing beauty and life to our school grounds.

It has been a busy and reflective start to the term, and we look forward to continuing our journey together as a school community, guided by faith, hope, and love.







## Chaplains Chat -

I'm Woody and I am a Year 6 chaplain. I had an idea of what Year 6 could do for their faith awards in Seek the Truth but I didn't expect it to be so popular. Next week Year 6 are having a sale of second-hand sports equipment after school to raise money for the Cheslin Kolbe foundation. My aim is to raise over one hundred pounds. Cheslin Kolbe is a South African rugby player who would have gone down a wrong path if he hadn't had rugby. I've researched it and read the back story. I thought it wasn't fair that people didn't have access to sport and might take a wrong path. If they had sport they could be dedicated to that. All the money raised will go to the charity so please support our sale after school next Thursday.

We would really appreciate people donating money to the CAFOD Big Lent walk showing Solidarity and Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. This is part of our Live Simply Action plan and our Pilgrims of Hope journey to bring hope to people who need our help. This is the link to donate

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

(Year 5 chaplain, Lorenzo)

## UP COMING DATES:

### Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> April (menu week 2)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 swimming  
- Benefits of active travel assembly

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> - Crowning of Mary service  
- Parents evening (not year 6)

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - SEND parent/carer support group 9:00-10:00  
- 2TR class assembly 10:00-10:30  
- Year 2 cake sale

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Parents evening  
- Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Kilve court trip

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Benefits of active travel sessions yr. 3&4

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - 2G Class assembly 10:00-10:30  
- Parent/carer SIP session 9:00-10:00

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*

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](mailto:Esmeralda.cela@bristol-schools.uk)



A group of our netball players took part in the county finals on Wednesday.

### **Results:**

Lost 1-2 v Beacon Rise

Won 4-0 v Air Balloon Hill

Won 3-0 v Hill Crest

Won 7-0 v Golden Valley

Won 5-0 v St Michaels C of E

Drew 2-2 v St Vigor & St John

This meant the girls played in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play off game and this ended in a 2-2 draw. The squad finished joint third out of 14 teams, a fantastic achievement - well done girls!

## **Extreme Reading Competition - now closed!**

Thank you for all the amazing entries we have received!

Winners will be announced soon!



## Sunflower competition, and buy your disco tickets from next week

It's time to get sowing! In support of school's celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope, we are excited to be launching a sunflower competition. We are also funding gardening kits so all classes can nurture different types of seeds in the new greenhouse, aiming to create an amazing display of plants in the school garden.

### Sunflowers next week

Every child will plant a couple of sunflower seeds in a pot at school. They will then bring these pots home to nurture and grow. If your child would like to take part in the sunflower competition, there will be a (gardening-related!) prize for the tallest sunflower. Simply email us the measurement, and a photo, if possible, by **5 September** ([contact@stbonsptfa.com](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com)).

### Class seeds

Each class will plant a tray of seeds in school for the Jubilee Year of Hope using the gardening kits we provide. Once the plants are ready, they will be transferred to pots decorated by each class and placed in the school garden. We hope to have a beautiful display by the end of the term!

### Discos, Friday 16 May

Tickets will go on sale on our [website](#) next week for the school discos on **Friday 16 May**. Ticket sales will be open for two weeks. This time there will be a separate disco for Reception children.

**Reception disco:** 3.45-4.30pm

**KS1 disco (years 1 and 2):** 5-6pm

**KS2 disco (years 3, 4, 5 & 6):** 6.30 - 7.45pm

**KS2 disco:** We will be limiting adult tickets at the KS2 disco to ensure that every child who would like to go to that disco is able to. As always, **please consider buddying up with other parents to allow more children to attend**. We require a ratio of 1 adult to 4 children.

We'll also be asking class reps to organise rotas for the stalls at the disco once tickets have been sold.



**ST BON'S PTFA** 

# Sunflower competition

All St Bon's children are invited to take part in a sunflower growing competition! With a prize for the tallest sunflower!!

Each child will sow a couple of sunflower seeds in a pot in school to bring home.

Once at home you will need to water the pot so the compost is moist, and place it on a warm windowsill.

You should see the seeds begin to shoot within 7-10 days.

Keep the compost moist but make sure it doesn't get too wet.

When the sunflowers are ready you can either move to a bigger pot, or plant them into the ground.

Choose a sunny spot and water regularly.

Support your sunflower with a cane to keep it upright.

**Can you grow the tallest sunflower?**

Simply measure the height of your sunflower and email the details to the PTFA **by 5 Sept** ([contact@stbonsptfa.com](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com)). Send in a photo if you can!

## Quiz

It's not too late to come along to the quiz tonight from 7pm! Either by your tickets online or buy them on the door.  
[Find out more and book tickets.](#)

## 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](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com)).

## PTFA meeting

Thanks to those who attended last night's meeting. We discussed a range of topics including the plans for the new playground at the back of school and the children's feedback, how we are supporting the Jubilee Year of Hope theme at school through our Sunflower competition and gardening kits, and the summer fair. The minutes of the meeting will be available soon.

## Dates for your diary

- ✚ Quiz night: Friday 25 April
- ✚ **Bake sales:** It's the year 2 bake sale on Friday 2 May, followed by year 4 on Friday 9 May.
- ✚ **Discos:** Friday 16 May
- ✚ **Frozen Fridays:** May to July
- ✚ **Summer Fair:** Sunday 22 June, 2-5pm
- ✚ **Sports Day refreshments:** 8 and 9 July.

