



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear parents and carers,

*Heavenly Lord,  
We ask your blessing on our school,  
The children, staff and all who volunteer here.  
As we reach the end of another school year,  
We particularly ask your blessing on those children  
About to move to secondary schools.  
May their grounding here, rooted in the Christian faith,  
Strengthen them to make the right choices between right and wrong  
As they take their steps into the wider world.  
Amen.*

At the end of what has been an incredibly busy and successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement in the life of St Bons, through your support on the PTFA, volunteering with reading, swimming or school trips and supporting your child at home have been invaluable this year. I feel truly blessed to be part of our school community, thank you.

I would like to say a special thank you to Helen Albon who will be stepping down from her role as chair of the PTFA at the end of this school year. Helen has been an absolute joy to work with and has come with so many ideas. On behalf of the school community I'd like to say thank you, your contributions have made such a difference to the outdoor provision for our children.

We are still looking for someone to fill the vacant chair role. Please can you all give this careful consideration as this role is key to the running of our PTFA and without the PTFA I wouldn't be able to provide many of the experiences and opportunities that we currently do.

### **Summer holiday homework and activities**

We are providing all children with optional summer holiday homework. We are hoping this will help you to keep the children engaged over the summer break and can be something you can dip in and out of. Please see the attached document for more details. All homework will need to be brought back into school in the first week of September as we will have a special celebration assembly and children who take part will receive a certificate.

### **Summer holiday activities**

Throughout the summer holiday children and young people under the age of 16 are able to travel for free on buses across our region: [Kids go free on the West's buses - West of England Combined Authority](#).

There is also the Gromit Unleashed 3 trail you can take part in: <https://www.grandappeal.org.uk/plan-your-trail-route/>

### **Thank you to the handful of parents who have emailed me following my request for additional reading volunteers next year**

Next school year, I am looking for a team of volunteers who are able to listen to children read at 8.50-9.10 and 3.00-3.20 each day. You do not need to have any experience as we will provide you with an induction. You also do not need to be able to commit everyday or every term.

If you want to know more please email me on: [Principal@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com](mailto:Principal@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com)

### **Dates for your diary:**

- Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd September inset days, school closed to pupils
- Thursday 4th September first day of term 1. Pupils in KS1 and KS2 to attend.

Best,  
Sarah Ballantine  
Principal  
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

## **A Week of Faith in Action at St Bon's**

It has been a busy and fulfilling week in the Catholic life of our school as we approach the end of the academic year. The children have had many opportunities to live out our Gospel values through awards, celebrations, prayer, and reflection.

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### **Monday: Celebrating Charity with the Jonathon Rogers Award**

We welcomed our CEO, Dr Doyle, to school on Monday. He was here to present the Jonathon Rogers Award to a pupil who has truly modelled our gospel values through their exceptional fundraising and charity work.

This year's very deserving winner was Sophia Grace in 5SK Sophia was recognised for her incredible efforts as our top individual fundraiser for H2O, raising over £800 through sponsorship and her own entrepreneurial cake sales! Earlier this year, Sophia also organised and ran her own sale to raise money for her chosen charity, For-Ethiopia.

Sophia received the award, a certificate, a new Bible, and £100 to continue her inspiring charity work. We are all incredibly proud of her and look forward to seeing how she continues to make a difference to the lives of others.

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### **Tuesday: St Bonaventure's Day and Pledges of Hope**

Tuesday was the Feast Day of our school saint, St Bonaventure. We learned about his important work with the Franciscan order, where he acted as a peacemaker to resolve disputes and bring peace. We linked his work to our own efforts to make a difference in the world by making pledges for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Each class considered and created pledges that we, as a school, can undertake to continue bringing hope to people and our planet. As part of our mission to be pilgrims of hope, each child also created some art work for our school entrance to form our schools Door of Hope.

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### **Wednesday: A Whole School Pilgrimage**

Our Year 5 and 6 Chaplains planned and led a whole- school pilgrimage on Wednesday morning. They designed several prayer stations around the school to help the children reflect on their personal relationship with God, their dreams for the world, and their role in caring for creation. Each class had the opportunity to visit the stations and spend time in prayer and reflection. A huge thank you to the adult volunteers who gave up their time to support our chaplains in this special event.

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### **Thursday: Farewell to Mgr. Bernard**

On Thursday, we held a special assembly for Mgr. Bernard, who is retiring this summer after his years of service as our parish priest. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on our time with him; he has been such an important part of our community and has baptised many of our pupils over the years. We will miss him greatly in September but wish him a long and happy retirement.

We also look forward to welcoming Canon Tom Finnegan, who will be our new parish priest, shared with the parishes of Sacred Heart and St Anthony's.

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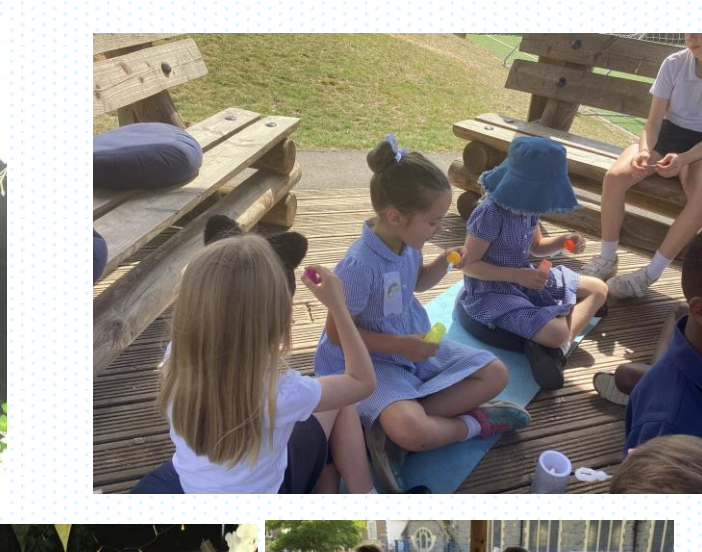
### **Friday: End of Year Mass and Fond Farewells**

At our end-of-year mass today, we said a fond farewell to our lovely Year 6 leavers, as well as other children and staff who are moving on. While we are sad to see them go, we know they will take the values of St Bon's with them and continue to let their lights shine in their new schools and ventures.

As a perfect thought to end the school year on, Lauren in Year 6 created a beautiful piece of artwork for St Bonaventure's feast day, featuring the powerful quote from St Bonaventure: "If you learn everything except



Christ you learn nothing. If you learn nothing except Christ, you learn everything." A profound reminder of what lies at the heart of our school.







### UP COMING DATES:

**Children return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**



### 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



Well done to Gwen in year 4 who cut her hair and will be donating it to the Princess Trust. She also held a small fundraiser to go towards the charity as well

## Reading Karate!



On Wednesday, we held our first celebration for recognition in achievement for reading karate. Students in KS1 who achieved Gold (300 reads or near) and in KS2 who read consistently at home/brought in their reading records were invited to come into school in non-uniform for some fun activities. Children enjoyed sharing their favourite books with each other, creating bookmarks, making book reviews and reading for pleasure in the library.



Special recognition goes to Lataya and Emilio in Y6 who are now Senseis in reading. Since Y3 they have read 900 times! Kasia in Y6 is our first ever Hall of Famer! Since Y3 she has read an incredible 1000 times!

Reading Karate in KS1 will now be reset for 2025-2026. KS2 children remember what number you got up to and it will roll over to the new school year. Please keep signing your reading records (1 per day counts!) for us to check and hopefully we will see more children next year celebrating their love of reading with us!



**Free Summer playscheme places for children Eligible for Free school meals**

**KidZone at St Bonaventures**  
**SUMMER PLAYScheme**  
**2025**

**21st July - 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**Open to all children aged 4-11**

Baking  
Crafts  
Sport



Outdoor Play  
Games

**Scan the QR code to book your place**  
**Free places available for Free School Meals eligible children**

**Full Day 08:30– 17:45 £33   Short Day 10:00-16:00 £26**



**Email– [kidzonestbons@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:kidzonestbons@bristol-schools.uk)**

**Website: [www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/web/kidzone](http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/web/kidzone)**

**St Bonaventure's catholic primary school, Egerton road,  
Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8HP**

This is a friendly reminder to log into your Arbor Parent account to allow to:

- Pay for School dinners
- Register and pay for Trips and events
- Book After school and breakfast Club sessions. Instructions to book these clubs are attached with this newsletter both of which are now live for term 1 bookings

Setting up this account ensures you don't miss out on services and helps us to manage everything smoothly.

If you have any issues accessing your account, please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance.  
Thank you for your attention on this matter!

## What a year – a huge thank you from the PTFA!

Thank you for all your support this year for the St Bon's PTFA!!

[Read our latest blog](#) to see all the ways your support has helped make a difference and [watch our reel on Instagram](#).



## Frozen Fridays and sports days

We raised £1009 from Frozen Fridays and a further £171 from selling refreshments at both sports days. Thank you again for all your contributions!

## Thank you

Thank you to Siobhan Riordan, Sarah Shreeves, and Ellie Eakins, who are finishing their time on the [PTFA committee](#) at this end of this term, along with our Chair Helen Albon. Your support, energy, and contributions over the years have been amazing, and you'll all be very much missed.

Please do get in touch if you're interested in joining the committee from September - it's a great way to support the school and meet other parents. We're still looking for someone to take on the role of PTFA Chair from September - so if that might be you (or someone you know), please do get in touch: [contact@stbonsptfa.com](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com)

