



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

*this time of expectation and preparation  
Help us to remember, God, you came to earth.  
As we prepare for all the joys Christmas can bring  
Help us to see your light in the dark places.  
As we celebrate being together with all our friends and family,  
Help us to remember to celebrate Jesus as God's greatest gift.  
Amen.*

Thank you to everyone who planned, prepared and helped out at our Christmas Fair on Sunday. It was an amazingly successful afternoon despite the windy weather. Thank you to everyone who came to support us on the day. A special thank you to our chair of the PTFA, Helen, and her team of volunteers. On behalf of our school community I want to say thank you for everything you do to support the school and our children. If you have not yet been able to support any PTFA events, it is not too late, with the new year ahead of us, why not make a resolution to help out on the PTFA committee in 2025?



On Wednesday we enjoyed our traditional Christmas dinner. Thank you to our Chartwells kitchen staff who worked tirelessly to feed all the pupils and staff!



Last week I added some metal insect sculptures to our flower bed at the front of the school, near to the mural. These were purchased for us by the PTFA. Please do not allow your children to play/touch these whilst you are waiting outside the school gates- they have spikes at the end of the poles!



### **Add update on parent focus group and new recruits**

Our parent focus group has grown! This term we have had several new parents join the group. We were looking for parents with children in different year groups and with different experiences so we have a wide range of viewpoints in the group.

This term we met and continued our discussion about the areas identified in the term 6 2024 parent/carer survey. With the support of one of our parents we are hoping to trial an APP to improve communication about sporting events. We are also looking to update our SEN information for parents/carers. More on these topics will follow next term.

If you have a non-urgent query that you want to share with the parent focus group ahead of our term 3 meeting please email: [parentfocusgroup@stbons.uk](mailto:parentfocusgroup@stbons.uk)

### **Update on dates for the week ahead:**

- Monday 16th December 2pm RH, 1R & 2TR nativity performance
- Tuesday 17th December 2pm RH, 1R & 2TR nativity performance
- Tuesday 17th December 6.30pm KS2 Family Carols on the playground.  
*Playground opens at 6pm for refreshments served by the PTFA.*
- Wednesday 18th December 2pm RLM, 1CR, 2G nativity performance
- Thursday 19th December 2pm RLM, 1CR, 2G nativity performance
- Friday 20th December 9.15am Advent Mass in church. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

Wishing you all a fun filled festive holiday. Please remember Monday 6th January is an inset day. The first day of term for pupils is Tuesday 7th January 2025!

Best,  
*Sarah Ballantine*  
Head teacher

# Catholic Life at St Bon's this week

Our week began with an Advent reflection planned and led by our Year 6 Chaplaincy team, focusing on the theme of *Hope*. Inspired by their message, all children took time to reflect on their personal hopes and prayers for the Advent season. These heartfelt wishes now decorate our Christmas tree, creating a beautiful and meaningful display.



As Christmas draws near, the festive spirit is palpable throughout the school. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are hard at work rehearsing for their upcoming Nativity plays and Carol Service, respectively. The joyful sounds of carols and Christmas songs fill the air wherever you are in school.

Our children have also been demonstrating their commitment to the theme of 'Love Thy Neighbor' through a variety of acts of kindness. Many have been working towards completing their Faith Awards, with a particular focus on supporting the local homeless community in Bristol. My office has been inundated with generous donations of gifts, cards, and good wishes, all lovingly prepared by our pupils.

This week, three of our pupils had the privilege of delivering these donations to the Julian Shelter in St Paul's. They were given a tour of the shelter, learning about the vital services they provide to those experiencing homelessness, including food, showers, clean clothes, and overnight accommodation. The children were really moved by the experience and are already planning their next fundraising initiative to support the shelter's work.



Last weekend, one of our Year 6 pupils, Felix, was baptised at St. Bonaventure's Church. He shared his decision to be baptised, explaining that he wanted to draw closer to God and deepen his relationship with Him.



Our 4G pupils also celebrated their recent fundraising success for CAFOD's World Gifts. They were thrilled to receive a certificate of appreciation, recognising their efforts to raise funds to teach people to read. The girls were delighted that they had raised enough money to teach 10 people to read.



As we continue to embrace the spirit of Advent, we are truly inspired by the faith, generosity, and compassion of our St. Bon's community.

### **UP COMING DATES:**

#### **Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> December (*Menu week 1*)**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity 2:00-3:00.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Carol concert 6:30.  
Year 5 swimming.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Advent Mass 9:15 parents welcome  
- Last day of term.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - INSET day, school closed to pupils.  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Term 3 begins for pupils.





# WINDOW WANDERLAND



We are hosting Bishopston's Window Wanderland for the third year on the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March and we want our St BONS families to take part and decorate their own windows making the trail even bigger than last year!

Window Wanderland invites Bishopston residents to make displays in their windows or gardens that will then form a magical trail which can be explored by the whole community. What goes into the displays is totally up to you: from a string of fairy lights to a band playing in the living room, from simple to spectacular: as long as it's family friendly, anything goes.

Sign up to the trail by following this link: [Bishopston, Bristol 2025 - Window Wanderland](#)  
We really need your help spreading the word and getting as many windows involved as we can, please share the website with your neighbourhood WhatsApp groups, follow Bishopston Window Wanderland [Facebook](#) page and share our posts, and encourage your local family, friends and neighbours to get involved.

If anyone can help us to advertise this event please let Mrs Ballantine or Gina Beattie in the office know. Thank you in advance 😊



A massive well done to Emilio and Marcello who having been trying to complete a 12 Acts of Kindness challenge before Christmas day.

So far they have taken homemade cakes to a local care home and spent time with the residents, litter picked, left kind messages on the pavement, and collected gifts for charities with their grandma. They will be thinking of more things to do over the coming week.

We invite everyone to try and find their own acts of kindness and help make the world a better place.



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)



## **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*

# Sports and clubs at St Bona


Sport and club's - week starting 16<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>NO</b>	4 Paid club Booked through Mrs Hinkins
Gymnastics	<b>NO</b>	Tuesday 3:20 - 4:20 Year 3 & 4 <b>Not running this week</b>
Circuits	<b>NO</b>	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 <b>Whole cast</b>
Running club	YES	Wednesday - 7.45am - all welcome - meet outside foyer.
Bench ball	<b>NO</b>	Friday - Year 4 & 5 - 8:00-8:30
Football	<b>NO</b>	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 - boys training
Rugby	<b>NO</b>	Thursday - 8:00 - 8:30 year 5 & 6
Chess Lunch break		Friday Year 5&6 - lunchtime
Choir	YES	12:15- during lunch break



## TERM 2 CWS AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS






<b>MONDAY</b> <b>FOOTBALL CLUB</b> 3.30PM - 4.30PM RECEPTION/Y1/Y2 £28 FOR 7 WEEK COURSE	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>FOOTBALL CLUB</b> 3.30PM - 4.30PM Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 £28 FOR 7 WEEK COURSE
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>MULTI SPORTS</b> 3.30PM - 4.30PM RECEPTION/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 £28 FOR 7 WEEK COURSE	<b>THURSDAY</b> CRICKET/TAG RUGBY/ BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL 3.30PM - 4.30PM RECEPTION/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 £28 FOR 7 WEEK COURSE

CLUB WILL START BACK MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER  
BOOKINGS WILL OPEN ONLINE ON FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

TO BOOK PLEASE GO TO -  
[WWW.CWSOPHIE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CWSOPHIE.CO.UK)

GIVE OUR SOCIALS A LITTLE  
FOLLOW KEEP UP TO DATE WITH  
ALL OUR HOLIDAY CLUBS,  
BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND ALL THE  
OTHER FUN WE HAVE GOING ON

#COACHING.WITH.SOPHIE    COACHING WITH SOPHIE    CWSOPHIES

## We raised £8,200 at our Christmas Fair!!

THANK YOU to everyone who made the Christmas fair a success last Sunday! Special thanks to the PTFA Committee, the organising team, our class reps, volunteers, school staff, and all who attended. Your support made this incredible fundraising total possible!!

We look forward to putting the money raised towards the development of a natural playground at the back of school.

Read more in our [PTFA blog](#) and see our [Instagram reel](#).



**Refreshments for KS2 carols, Tues 17 Dec at 6pm:** We will be serving non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies and other refreshments at the KS2 Carols next Tuesday 17 December from 6pm. The money raised from the sale of these refreshments will go specifically towards the cost of buying a 'Norbot' sculpture, the smart gnome from the upcoming film, Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl. The children will design and decorate Norbot as part of the school's participation in the [Gromit Unleashed 3 Schools Programme](#). Please do come and support this!

**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. [Take the shed tour now!](#)

### Dates for your diary:

- Pre-loved uniform shed:** Open all day, Monday to Friday, so feel free to pop in whenever you can.
- Refreshments for KS2 family carols:** Tuesday 17 December, from 6pm.



## **COMUNITY FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

When something *just works*, it can be easy to take it for granted - for several years those pantry shelves at the back of St Bons have been filled by volunteers and then emptied by those in need six days a week with seemingly clockwork simplicity! But when you stop to think about it, it's quite an amazing thing. The beauty of the Community Food Pantry is that it runs on an honesty basis: people come to take whatever is available, when they most need it. And, even more amazingly, week by week our volunteers, parish members, school and local community show their kindness and generosity, enabling the whole endeavour to keep on going. We definitely don't take your support for granted, and we know Pantry users don't either. Thank you!

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

### **Please donate:**

- Christmas treats - selection boxes or other Christmassy things
- Tinned vegan meals
- Tinned meat meals
- Cereal
- Pesto
- Tomato purée
- Dried lentils
- 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.

# Welcome to Reception

Applications are open on you LA website for Reception 2025.  
The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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### **⚽⚽ GIRLS AND FOOTBALL ⚽⚽**

Brunel Bantams is a grassroots football club for girls and boys (years 1 to 11). As a club we are working to increase the number of girls playing for the Bantams, and our first step is to hear directly from girls about their experiences with football.

If you have a female child in Year 1 or older, could you please spend 5-10 minutes answering this survey before 22nd December.

<https://forms.gle/GbjoszPJyjLGxyFx8>

The information will help us to understand how to engage more girls in football, what is going well for existing girl football players, and where we can improve.

As a thank you, we will have a drawing for three £5 gift vouchers to Boston Tea Party. Please email [brunelbantams@gmail.com](mailto:brunelbantams@gmail.com) with any questions. We appreciate your time!

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