



Friday 7th November 2025

Dear parents and carers,

*In this season of hope
Through short days and long nights
In wind, rain and wet plays
As we get ready for Christmas
Lord, we have so much to look forward to.
Help us remember those who have very little.
Amen.*

Welcome back, I hope you all had a wonderful half term break ahead of what will be one of our busiest and most magical terms of the school year.

At the end of last term we celebrated our first Culture Week. I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Cela, EAL champion, the pupil language ambassadors and the team of parent/carers volunteers who helped to make this happen. On Monday 20th October the pupils enjoyed listening to stories shared in parents' home language. On Thursday 23rd October we were all treated to an array of different cultures which included traditional dress and food. The events of this week highlighted the importance of community at St Bons.



The term has started off full of activity. Thank you for supporting your children on our 'Adopt a Saint Day' on Tuesday. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the saints and hear how they can inspire us in our lives today.



Dates for the month ahead:

- Wednesday 19th-Friday 21st November Year 6 residential retreat.
- Friday 21st November 5SK class assembly 10am.
- Monday 24th November pupils nasal flu immunisations- please sign the consent form if you want your child to receive this.
- Wednesday 26th November Bristol Old Vic theatre performance funded by the PTFA.
- Friday 28th November parent/carers SEND support group 9-10am. Drop in, all parents/carers are welcome to attend.
- Friday 28th November 6G class assembly 10am.
- Friday 5th December 9-10am parent/carers school improvement session with the principal. All parents/carers are welcome to attend and find out about the schools priorities for the year.
- Sunday 7th December 2-5pm St Bons Christmas Fair.
- Tuesday 9th December Year 6 height and weight checks.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School

Our Faith in Action: Celebrating Community, Harvest, and Our Saints

It has been a wonderfully busy and joyful few weeks at St Bon's, filled with events that highlight the Catholic life of our school and the generosity of our community. We have celebrated our global family, given thanks for our blessings, and been inspired by the saints.

Giving Thanks at Our Harvest Mass:

Before the half-term break, we gathered as a school family at St Bonaventure's for our Harvest Mass. It was a special time to thank God for all we are grateful for and to remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

The children looked wonderful in their bright clothes and their generous contributions raised money for the CAFOD Harvest Appeal which will go towards 'World Gifts' to make a difference to a community in Ethiopia. In order to support our local neighbours, we also collected donations of food, which were added to the parish food pantry.

A very special thank you must go to Joe's Bakery for their kind donation of the magnificent harvest loaf. It was blessed during the Mass and then shared among all the children—a tangible reminder that God's gifts are for everyone and that we are called to think of others and share what we have.

Celebrating Our Diverse Community:

We ended the last term with our fantastic 'Celebrating Cultures' week. It was a true celebration of the wonderfully diverse, global community we are blessed with here at St Bon's.



Throughout the week, it was a pleasure to welcome parents and carers into school to read stories to the children in their home languages. Every child also completed a piece of artwork that represented them, and it was lovely to see so many parents joining their children in class to share this work.

The week culminated in a brilliant Cultural Fair in the hall. Families hosted stalls celebrating their heritage, allowing us all to learn more about the history and geography of different countries and, of course, to taste some delicious food! Our heartfelt thanks to all the parents, carers, and staff who gave their time and effort to make this week so special and memorable for the children.



Walking with Our Saints:

We returned from the break this week and immediately launched into our 'Adopt a Saint' day. It was a joyous sight to see the corridors filled with children and staff dressed as saints who inspire them. We loved the variety of saints chosen, and it was fascinating to learn about some less common saints, such as Saint Giuseppe, Saint Philomena, Saint Rose, Saint Dymphna, Saint Charlotte, and Saint Teresa of Avila. At our Saints Day service, we reflected on our school saints and how their lives and virtues can inspire our own words and actions today.



Living 'Love thy Neighbour':

Our week concluded with today's 'Love thy Neighbour, Walk the Walk' assembly. We focused on the many ways we can show love for others, linking our actions directly to our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) themes of Human Dignity, Family and Community, and Rights and Responsibilities.

It was a privilege to award certificates to children who consistently model this love for their neighbour, going out of their way to show kindness and care to everyone in our school community. They are a true example to us all.

Thank you to our whole community—children, staff, and parents—for your unwavering support and enthusiasm.



UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning 10th November (week 2)

Friday 14th – Bake sale after school – yr4.

Week beginning 17th

Year 6 Kintbury residential Wednesday 19th-Friday 21st

Friday 21st – 5SK Class assembly 10:00-10:30

Dates
for your



EAL (English as an additional language) Coffee mornings.

Every Monday 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



Welcome
to
Reception

Applications are open on your LA website for Reception 2026.

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.



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



School Flu Vaccination – Monday 24th November

Consent Form



Sirona
care & health

Scan the QR code above to give consent for the Autumn/ Winter 2025 school Flu programme

- For children in Reception – Year 11 in September 2025 (all children in SEND schools)
- Any questions Please contact sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or 0300 1245515

All the y5 girls who play in the Monday netball club took part in some great matches on Wednesday against Bishop Rd Primary School. The girls all played well, scored lots of goals and really enjoyed the experience. Well done girls 😊



THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE



We would like to remind parents that we are a nut free school. Children should not bring in food or snacks that contain nuts, this includes hazelnut spreads such as Nutella.

Hello everyone

Message of the Week – Welcome back!

We hope you all had a great half term. While we may be on the long, hard slog to Christmas, fear not - we have plenty of fun things planned to help get us through the cold dark months which will (added bonus alert...) enhance the school experience for our children. As ever, your support over the coming weeks is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you all.

“What we can achieve for the school and our children is a collective effort and we welcome anyone who wishes to join and engage”

PTFA management

Meetings

We held our monthly meeting on Tuesday, minutes of which can be found on the PTFA website. We will post the details of the next meeting in the coming weeks.

Get Involved

Shopper

We are still looking for volunteers who can help out with the key role of shopping for the PTFA. We regularly need to stock up on items before events. We can provide lists and funding, we just need willing helpers to donate time and help keep the PTFA running smoothly.

Disco 2026

Our disco guru/cashier, Sandra, is sadly leaving us at the end of this academic year. With this event being such a hit with our children, we are looking for people who are willing to take on this project who would be willing to shadow Sandra during the planning and execution of the 2026 spring disco and help maintain the beat into next year. Let us know if you're willing to help out.

Uniform Shed

If you are donating uniform to our popular pre-loved uniform shed, please make sure you take items to the school office and not the shed. This term please only donate cardigans and jumpers with the school logo.

Get in touch

Anyone who is interested in undertaking a committee role, please email us at contact@stbonsptfa.com, contact us through your class rep, or catch us in the playground.

PTFA Activities

Grow With It

We are continuing our Grow With It campaign from last year, and are holding a gardening event on **Saturday 22nd November, 2pm onwards.**

We need volunteers to help with maintaining the beds and inject new ideas into the initiative – we'll be planting some bulbs, bean seeds and mulching.

Come along, invite green-fingered grandparents, and get digging...



Christmas Shop now open!

The children have been busy in school creating some amazing designs. There are lots of lovely things to choose: from Christmas cards, coasters, mugs and many more.

You can view and order at [St Bonaventures Christmas shop](#). There is a 10% discount for a limited time only if you use the code **StBonaventures1X25**.

20% from every purchase goes to the PTFA.

Any problems, contact the customer services on: 01530 887650.

Dates for your diary

- **Friday Feast Day:** The next bake sale is **Friday 14th Nov (Year 3)**.
Year 2 take on the bake sale on Friday 28th November
- **Grow With It gardening afternoon:** Saturday 22nd November, 2pm onwards
- **Christmas Fayre:** Sunday 7th December, 2-5pm
 - Do you have an idea? Would you like to help plan? Please email the PTFA.

With Many Thanks

Johanna Probert – Committee Member (Communications and Engagement)

Community Food Pantry Update

September has come and gone and by now the new routines of our individual lives and that of family life should be settling down after the long, hot summer break. With this in mind, perhaps we could consider a new routine, that is to remember to donate to our community food pantry on a regular basis?

To remind you about the food pantry or to introduce you to what it is, here are some pointers:

- The food pantry is found at the back of the church, it is open six days a week, during church opening hours.
- The food pantry operates on a basis of trust, it is not staffed and anyone is able to use it. The uptake is huge, the shelves are emptied on a daily basis.
- The food pantry is intended for people to use when they are finding it hard to make ends meet, it is a short-term solution to providing a simple family meal and / or toiletry. We request the users take no more than they need for a meal, a carrier bag is enough.
- The food pantry provides literature to signpost users to seek longer term solutions to affording the basic needs for family life.
- The food pantry is run by volunteers from our parish and from the residents of Egerton Rd. The residents of Egerton Rd were responsible for initially setting up the food pantry, which has now been running for four years. The volunteers do a weekly shop and restock the food pantry four days a week.
- The food pantry also orders a 'Click and Collect' delivery each week and then delivers this to 'Aid Box Community,' which offers support for refugees and people seeking asylum in Bristol. Aid Box Community is located in St. Andrews, Bristol.

How can I donate?

You can donate non-perishable food and toiletries (*please note we cannot accept fresh food as we can't safely store it.*)

For example: tinned fish, cooking oil, flour, cooking sauces, cereal, oats, tea, coffee, UHT milk, tinned vegetables, shampoo, sanitary products, washing up liquid etc.

Please put these items 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.

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 Canon Tom or put it in an envelope through Jenny's door at 57 Egerton Rd. Jenny is a long-standing volunteer.

Thank you for your ongoing support and donations for the Community Food Pantry

Community News

First Holy Communion.

If your child is in year 3 or above, application forms for First Holy Communion 2026 at both, Sacred Heart and St Bon's, are now available to collect from Canon Tom after Mass. Please return completed forms to Canon Tom after Mass, the closing date for applications is 12th January 2026. The first session of preparation will take place in January 2026.



Unique Voice are delighted to offer a **free** webinar for parents and carers to mark this year's anti-bullying theme, *Power for Good*. The webinar will equip adults with the necessary tools to support children in their care to use their *Power for Good* in their relationships at school and in the wider community. They also discuss our role in children's lives as trusted adults, signs to look out for and where we can turn if we need help. It is relaxed and informal, with parents and carers invited to simply listen along and reflect.

The webinar has been uploaded to our website and can be found on their website:

[Anti-bullying Week 2025, Power For Good - Parent and Carer Webinar | Unique Voice](#)

A member of the school community has two rabbit hutches to give away. If you are interested please contact vgarrett@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com for details of collecting.

