



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Christ, come into our world of darkness  
Light up our lives with your coming.  
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth  
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world  
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.  
Amen.

In my absence the Trust CEO, Dr Danny Doyle, will be working closely with the senior leadership and staff team. Danny has spent time with us this week getting to know the rhythms of St Bons and getting to know the children. Please do introduce yourself if you see him on the gate in the morning or afternoon over the coming weeks.

### **Drop in appointments with Trust SENDCO**

The Newman Education Trust has a SENDCO, Faith Buckley, who is able to provide support across all seven schools. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January Faith will be based at St Bons and will be providing drop in appointments for parents/carers to sign up to. This is a valuable opportunity for you to sign up to a 30 minute appointment with Faith to talk through any questions, concerns and/or next steps for your child. To book a slot please email [gbeattie@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com](mailto:gbeattie@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com) Priority will be given to parents of children on our SEND register.

### **KS2 Carol Service**

The KS2 Christmas Carol service will take place next Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, on the back playground. Please enter the school via the back gates accessed from the business centre carpark. Carols begin at 6:00, the PTFA will be serving refreshments.

### **Dates for the month ahead:**

- WB: 15<sup>th</sup> December Reception & KS1 nativity performances
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December KS2 Christmas Carols 6pm. All pupils/parents/carers to enter via the rear entrance accessed via the church car park.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December:
  - School Christmas dinner. Wear a Christmas jumper.
  - Advent Mass in St Bons Church 9.15am. Parents/carers are welcome to attend.
  - Last day of term.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January inset days, school closed to pupils.
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January first day of term 3 for pupils.
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 9.15am Epiphany Mass in St Bons church all parents/carers welcome to attend.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January Trust SENDCO drop in 9am-2pm. Please book a slot by contacting Gina Beattie at [gbeattie@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com](mailto:gbeattie@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com)
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January SEND parent/carers meeting facilitated by the school nurse. Book a slot to drop in between 9-10am.

Best,  
Sarah Ballantine  
Principal  
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

## Catholic Life at St Bon's this week

It has been a truly spirit-filled week at St Bons as preparations for Christmas are now in full swing. We began the week by lighting the second candle on our Advent wreath, with a beautiful reflection led by our Year 6 Chaplains. The focus this week has been on Peace; the children were asked to reflect on what the feeling of peace means to them and how they can become instruments of peace for others during this holy season.

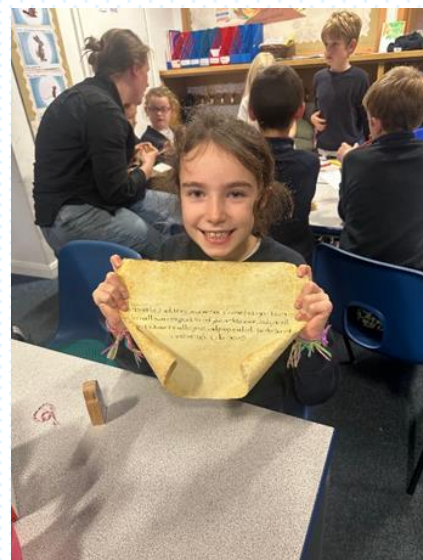
You cannot walk through the corridors this week without hearing the sound of children singing! Music is filling every corner of the school as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity. The excitement is palpable as Key Stage 1 polish their Nativity performances, Key Stage 2 rehearse their carols, and the whole school prepares for our end-of-term Mass.

We were delighted to welcome volunteers from B&M Church this week to work with Year 3. They delivered "Christmas in a Box" sessions, where the children handled artefacts to help them discover more about the Christmas story. The children loved exploring the stations and creating their own Christmas boxes to take away, deepening their understanding of the Nativity.

**Love Thy Neighbour: Faith in Action** We are incredibly proud of how the children are living out the Gospel values by thinking of those less fortunate than themselves. Classes are currently finalising their 'Love Thy Neighbour' actions:

- Years 5 & 6: Last week their Boxes of Hope were collected by a local charity to support refugees.
- Year 4: The children have collected warm clothes and gifts for the Julian Shelter. They have taken great care to wrap these in hand-decorated paper, and they will be delivered next week.
- Year 3: Next week, the class will be holding a sponsored silence to raise vital funds for CAFOD.

The care, thought, and time that Key Stage 2 have put into preparing gifts for others has been touching to witness. It is a wonderful example of our school mission in action.





## UP COMING DATES:

### Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> December (menu week 1)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - RJM, 1R, 2TP Nativity 14:00

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - RJM, 1R, 2TP Nativity 14:00

- KS2 Carol Service 18:00 in back playground

- 

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - RH, 1CR 2G Nativity 14:00

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - RH, 1CR, 2G Nativity 14:00

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas jumper day - worn with usual uniform.

- Xmas lunch (if not ordered children need a packed lunch)
- Advent/ End of term Mass 9:15 at the church, parents welcome
- Last day of term.

### w/b 5<sup>th</sup> January (menu week 1)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Inset day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Insert day- school closed to pupils

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - First day of Term 3.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany/start of term Mass 9:15 - parents welcome

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 15<sup>th</sup> January. If you are applying on Faith grounds, please do not forget to bring the Baptismal certificate to the office before the 15<sup>th</sup> January.



## 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*



Two year 6 netball teams played against Bishop Road Primary this week and both teams played some great netball, coming away with two strong wins. Well done girls!

Hello everyone

### Message of the Week - Festive thank you!

The fabulous PTFA elves are still recovering from the Christmas Fair, which took place on Sunday. We've been inundated with positive feedback since the event and would like to say **a huge thank you all for your support** - we couldn't have made the event the success it was without your attendance, generosity, and willingness to pitch in and man the stalls.

**The event raised a whopping £5255.76**, which will go a long way in supporting the PTFA's school enrichment activities.



A special mention to Charlie from 3J, who named the giant rainbow teddy bear 'Triply', and to Jess who won the bake off with her amazing gingerbread houses. Winners of the amazing Christmas hampers and silent auction items are listed below:

### Hamper winners

RM - Georgette	3RH - Hilary
RH - Tara	4D - Cathy
1R - Isabel	4L - Ezra and Roman
1CR - Catherine	5SK - Brenda
2TP - Arthur	5B - Leo
2G - Christina	6WA - Jennie
3J - Georgina	6G - Cleme

If you've not yet collected your hamper, you can do so from the school office.

### Silent Auction winners

1 hour massage	Melissa Varia
2 hour kids' art workshop at Art-K in Henleaze	Paula Hill
4 courtside tickets to see Bristol Flyers vs Newcastle	Sophie Loukes
Avon Valley heritage railway family ticket	Charlotte Galambszogi
Bristol golf club Almondsbury	Matt McMahon
Family of 4 entry to Longleat	Aimee Davies
Shine holiday club for 2 children worth £70	Nuala Calder
Two adult tickets to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm	Nuala Calder
£25 massage voucher Hilary Wilcox Health and Wellbeing	Georgette Thompson
£30 Sicilian restaurant voucher	Melissa Varia



If you've not yet collected your voucher, you will receive a personal email link from the PTFA to pay online. Once payment has been made, you can collect your voucher from the school office.

### **Congratulations to all our winners!**

If you have any images of yourselves enjoying the Christmas Fair that you'd be willing to share, please email them to [contact@stbonsptfa.com](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com) - we'd love to see what you all got up to. Please also include whether you'd be happy for us to use these images in our annual report and social media or not.

### **PTFA activities**

#### **Carol service**

We will be supporting the KS2 Carol Service, taking place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> with refreshments. The event takes place from 6PM in the back playground. All are welcome.

#### **REMINDER Friday Feast Day - change of dates**

With the festive season in full swing, we have postponed the remaining bake sales to the new year. The new dates are:

Year 1 - January 16<sup>th</sup>

Reception - January 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **PTFA management**

#### **Meetings**

Minutes from our last meeting can be found on the [PFTA website](#). Please do take the time to read and see what we get up to...

#### **Get in touch**

Anyone who is interested in undertaking a committee role or joining one of our project teams (Grow With It, Christmas Fair, Disco to name but a few), please email us at [contact@stbonsptfa.com](mailto:contact@stbonsptfa.com), contact us through your class rep, or catch us in the playground.

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

- **Friday Feast Day:** The next bake sale is **Friday 16th Jan (Year 1)**.  
Reception take on the bake sale on Friday 23rd January

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 31<sup>st</sup> December. The first session of preparation will take place in January 2026.



---

## **New online CBT service for local children and young people**

The local NHS has launched a new online CBT service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12 plus can self-refer to the service at [www.mixedup.uk](http://www.mixedup.uk) and support is also available for parents of children aged 12 plus.

The service is part of a range of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off the Record. You can find out more about these services in the *Directory of mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people* for your area, available on the local NHS website at <https://bnssghealthiertogether.org/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>

---

Our next parent/carer prayer meeting where we pray for the school is on Friday 19th December 9:00-9.30am in the Presbytery. All are welcome