



Friday 5th December 2025

Dear parents and carers,

*At this advent 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 dark places.
As we put up our Christmas lights
Help us to remember to celebrate Jesus as God's greatest gift.
As we wrap up gifts for each other
Help us to remember you are with us still, Emmanuel, God with us.
Amen.*



The Christmas tree has arrived and the nativity scenes are out. It really is starting to feel very festive in school. We are looking forward to our Christmas fair on Sunday, 2-5pm. If you haven't purchased your tickets, please don't worry it's not too late as you can pay on the door on the day. There will also be a chance to buy last minute raffle tickets- good luck everyone!

Parent/carers volunteers

We're looking for a volunteer and/or team of volunteers who are available to come into school at 8.55am each morning to work 1:1 and/or with a small group of pupils to provide them with a physical movement break. Ideally volunteers will have a sporting background. A DBS will be required and we can make this application for you. Please contact Mrs Woolley to express an interest on deputy@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com

Dates for the month ahead:

- Sunday 7th December 2-5pm St Bons Christmas Fair.
- Tuesday 9th December Year 6 height and weight checks.
- WB: 15th December Reception & KS1 nativity performances
- Tuesday 16th December KS2 Christmas Carols.
- Friday 19th 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 5th and Tuesday 6th January inset days, school closed to pupils.
- Wednesday 7th January first day of term 3 for pupils.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

Catholic Life at St Bon's this week

We have now entered the holy season of Advent, a time of joyful expectation as we prepare our hearts and our school to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Walking around the school this week, the change in atmosphere has been evident. The Christmas tree has been decorated and is standing in the hall, and the school crib is set up at the entrance—currently empty, as we await the arrival of Jesus.

A Journey of Prayer

Our spiritual journey for the season began on Monday with our first Advent Reflection. We were really proud of our Year 6 Chaplains, who led the whole school in a beautiful service focused on the first theme of Advent: Hope.

Following this, every class has received their Advent wreath and created a dedicated reflection table for the season. It is wonderful to see the children taking ownership of their faith; across the school, pupils are busy planning and leading their own class reflections, exploring what the promise of Jesus means to them.



Faith in Action: Love Thy Neighbour

As part of their Faith Award, the children in Years 5 and 6 have truly embraced the commandment to "Love Thy Neighbour" through their support of the Aid Box Community.

The children prepared 'Boxes of Hope' for children from refugee families, and the response from our pupils was amazing. When the charity arrived to collect the donations, they were overwhelmed by the sheer volume and generosity of our families. In fact, we had so many contributions that they had to schedule a return visit to collect the remaining boxes! The charity expressed how deeply grateful the receiving families will be to know that our community cares for them.

A Special Mention: We must give a massive shout-out to Marcello in 5B, who personally contributed an incredible 21 boxes. Thank you, Marcello, for your shining example of generosity.



Sounds of the Season

Finally, the school is filled with music. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 children are putting the finishing touches on their Nativity performances, which are almost ready for the last week of term. Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 are busy perfecting their carols. We look forward to sharing these joyous moments with you soon.

We wish all our St Bons families a peaceful and blessed start to Advent.



UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning 8th December (menu week 3)

Monday 8th - Year 3 Stone age day.

Tuesday 9th -Year 6 height and weight check.

w/b 15th December.

Monday 15th - RJM, 1R, 2TP Nativity 14:00

Tuesday 16th - RJM, 1R, 2TP Nativity 14:00

- KS2 Carol Service 18:00 in back playground

Wednesday 17th - RH, 1CR 2G Nativity 14:00

Thursday 18th - RH, 1CR, 2G Nativity 14:00

Friday 19th - 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.

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.

If you are applying on Faith grounds, please do not forget to bring the Baptismal certificate to the office before the 15th 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

This week, year 5 and 6 had a fantastic workshop all about AI and machine learning. Mr Barclay from Hyatt Education facilitated discussions on the various uses of AI at the moment, possible developments for the future, humanoid robots and some of the things to be wary of e.g. AI generated images and videos. We then trained our machines to recognise various ships and automatically launch a paper aeroplane when it was faced with a USO (unidentified submerged object)!

Lots of learning, lots of fun!



Thank you to everyone one who bought something from our Poppy day sale, the school raised a huge £266.75

Hello everyone

Message of the Week – Christmas Fair this weekend!!



It's finally here! **Our Christmas Fair takes place this Sunday, 2-5PM.**

With the weather forecast currently looking slightly soggy, be sure to bring your brollies along with your kids and a dash of festive cheer. We've got all sorts of seasonal cheer lined up for you with games, mulled wine, amazing prizes and more... even Santa Claus himself!

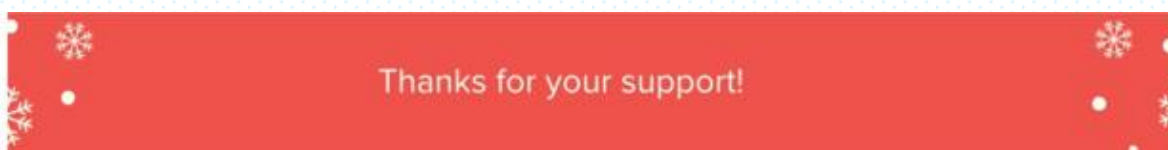
Everyone needs an entry ticket. If you've not yet purchased your tickets, you can still buy them at [St Bona Christmas Fair tickets](#) or on the door on the day itself.

The **silent auction** is still live at [St Bona PTFA Silent Auction](#) and will close at 4pm and be sure to bring a **cake donation** for drop-off when you arrive.

All funds raised from tickets go towards running the event and funding projects and resources at school that enrich the children's education.

You can find out more about the Christmas Fair, buy tickets and tokens at [Christmas Fair 2025 | St Bona PTFA](#)

Thank you for your support on this event and a huge thank you to the PTFA team pulling it all together. Let's get into the festive spirit and kick-off the celebrations in style!



PTFA activities

Year 2 bake sale

A huge thanks to the year 2 bake sale team who managed to raise **£179.76**. All bake sale proceeds go into a collective pot which will be split equally between classes once all bake sales are complete to spend on classroom enrichment materials, so thank you for your ongoing support.

REMINDER Friday Feast Day – change of dates

With all the festive activities in mind, we have taken the decision (confirmed by class reps) to postpone the remaining bake sales to the new year. The new dates are:

Year 1 - January 16th

Reception - January 23rd



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, contact us through your class rep, or catch us in the playground.

Dates for your diary

- **Christmas Fair:** Sunday 7th December, 2-5pm
 - Do you have an idea? Would you like to help plan? Please email the PTFA.
- **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 31st 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 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