



Friday 28th November 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Lord, May the words we use today and every day be words of kindness, words of humour and goodwill:
Words that come from the overflowing of a loving heart.
Amen.



It's starting to feel very seasonal in school this week. Thank you to our PTFA who funded our Bristol Old Vic performance of 'Once upon a winter'.



Punctuality

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that alongside school attendance I also rigorously monitor pupils punctuality. You will be aware that the school day starts at 8.50am and the side gate closes to all pupils once the last class has left the playground. If you arrive at school after the prayer when classes have entered the building you will need to take your child into school via the office reception and sign them in. This is the case for all pupils including Reception.

Parent/carers survey

Earlier this term I shared with you a link to our parent/carers survey which I have designed in collaboration with the parent focus group in term 1. Thank you to everyone who has engaged in this survey to date, if you have not yet completed it please use the following link:

<https://forms.gle/2PxZbPtrWGs9TekRA>

The survey closes at midday on Monday 1st December 2025.

Dates for the month ahead:

- Monday 1st December pupils in St Andrew's house can wear blue to celebrate St Andrews Day.
- Friday 5th December:
 - Bring a bottle for the Christmas fair bottle stall. Pupils wear non uniform.
 - 9-10am parent/carers school improvement session with the principal. All parents/carers are welcome to attend and find out about the school's priorities for the year.
- 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
- Wednesday 17th December KS2 Christmas Carols.
- Friday 19th December:
 - School Christmas dinner. Wear a Christmas jumper.
 - Advent Mass in St Bons Church 9.15am. Parents/carers welcome to attend.
 - Last day of term.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

Catholic Life at St Bon's this week

A Concert of Hope: Closing the Jubilee Year

Last Friday, we came together as a whole school community to celebrate the end of the Jubilee Year with a moving Concert of Hope. It was a wonderful opportunity to look back on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope' and reflect on how our actions impact our own lives and the lives of those around us.

Every year group contributed to the celebration with songs and prayers prepared specifically for this theme:

- EYFS delighted us with our 'Gather' song.
- Key Stage 1 gave us a preview of their upcoming nativities with 'He's the King'.
- Year 3 performed a hope themed song of their own composition.
- Year 4 sang about friendship with 'You've Got a Friend in Me'.
- Year 5 lifted our spirits with 'Here Comes the Sun'.

We also shared our Jubilee Pledge, which was created using the children's own ideas on how we can continue to be pilgrims of hope in the wider world. It was a joy to hear each year group share their own prayers written on the theme of hope, joining our voices in a shared vision for the future.

Joyful Preparation: The Season of Advent

As we move from the Jubilee celebrations, our eyes are now turning toward Advent. In our Celebration of the Word assemblies this week, we focused on the Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent (Matthew 24:37-44).

We discussed that Advent is a season of joyful preparation, but we asked the children: *What exactly are we preparing for?* We explored the dual meaning of this special season—getting ready not only for the celebration of Christmas but also for the *Parousia*, the second coming of Jesus. It is a time for us to 'stay awake' and be ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

Year 6 Retreat to St Cassian's

Last week, our Year 6 pupils travelled to the beautiful setting of St Cassian's in Kintbury for a three-day retreat. This was a peaceful, prayerful, and reflective start to the Christmas season for our eldest pupils.

The retreat focused on Advent and preparing to welcome Jesus. A particular highlight for the children was the night walk, where they followed a star leading them to an outdoor barn set up with a nativity scene—a truly magical moment.

Love Thy Neighbour: 6G Class Assembly

Today, 6G presented the final assembly in our 'Love Thy Neighbour' Gospel theme series. Their powerful presentation was based on the book *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah.

The children told the moving story of how people from the Caribbean left their homes to help rebuild the UK after the war, and the difficulties they faced adapting to a new place where they were not always welcomed. 6G then linked this history to our current times, reminding us that migrants today still face similar challenges.

Reflecting on the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical, they reminded us that:

"Jesus asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all."

6G challenged the whole school to build a world of compassion and care, and to appreciate the stories and culture of everyone within our society. We are incredibly proud of our children, knowing that we are

sending them out into the world as young people who care for others, stand up for what is right, and speak out for justice.



Netball Matches

On Monday the y5 and y6 netball teams took on Stoke Bishop in two very exciting and close games. Everyone played well and made great progress during the games, sharing the positions around and taking turns to come off to score and support. The Y5s won 10-4 and the Y6s lost 9-13. Well done to all the girls involved.

On Wednesday two different y5 and 6 teams played against a strong Westbury Park. Both teams battled hard and played some fantastic netball, swapping their players around and getting used to more than one position. The Y5s won 15-9 and the Y6s won 17-10. Well done girls.

A huge well done to Nell who performed amazingly at a regional Irish dancing competition last week.

Thank you for representing the school, we are very proud of you!



UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning 1st December 9 (menu week 2)

Monday 1st - St Andrews house wear blue

Friday 5th - Bring a bottle for Christmas fair - non uniform in return.
- Bake sale after school (year 1)

Sunday 7th - Christmas Fayre 14:00-17:00

W/B 8th December

Tuesday 9th -Year 6 height and weight check.

Friday 12th - Bake sale after school (Reception)

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



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

Hello everyone

Message of the Week – Christmas Fair update



We've had a great response to our Christmas Fair preparations. From hamper and soft toy donations to goodie bags and ticket sales, the response has been fantastic. A huge thank you from the PTFA and the Christmas Fair team.

There are however some stall gaps on the day itself that need filling with parent volunteers. We cannot deliver this event without your support on the day so if you can, please donate your time to your designated class stall – it will make all the difference to having an all-round successful event. Key reminders below:

RAFFLE TICKETS Bring money and stubs to school by **5th Dec**

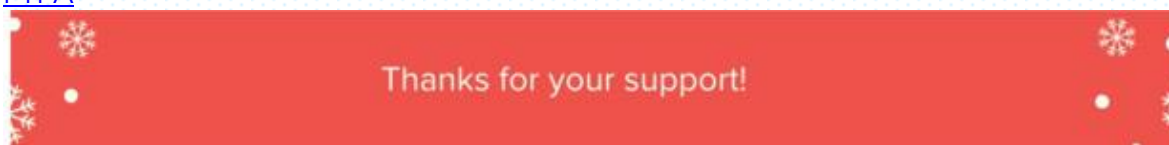
BRING A BOTTLE To school drop off in exchange for non uniform day **5th Dec**

CAKES/BAKE OFF Bring to the fair by 2pm **7th Dec**

There is a **non-uniform day** on Friday 5th of December in exchange for a bottle for the Christmas Fair.

The **silent auction** is now also live. Find out more at [St Bons PTFA Silent Auction](#).

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



PTFA activities

Grow With It gardening afternoon

A huge thank you to everyone who turned out for our gardening afternoon as part of the Grow With It campaign. Thanks to our green-fingered volunteers, we tidied and mulched the raised beds and the bed at the front of the school, planting almost 400 bulbs!

Check out our [video on Instagram](#) for all things autumn clear-up.

We are always looking for help or ideas to keep the project going. Get in touch if you want to get involved...



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 [PTFA 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

- **Non-uniform day:** in exchange for a bottle for the Christmas Fair, **Friday 5th December**
- **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 9-9.30am in the Presbytery. All are welcome