



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,



*As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany,
we remember the journey of the Magi,
who followed the star to find the Child Jesus.
We ask You to bless our homes and our families.
Like the Wise Men, may we always seek You with open hearts.
May the light of Your love shine in our words and our actions,
making our homes places of peace, kindness, and welcome.*

It was a joy to welcome the children back to school on Wednesday. Despite the icy weather and the temporary adjustment of using a different entrance, the children settled into their routines with remarkable ease. Their resilience and positive attitudes on a cold January morning were a credit to them all.

In our first assembly of the term, we spent time reflecting on our school community. We spoke with the children about Mrs Ballantine's absence. While we won't see her in school for a little while, we reassured the children that she remains very much in contact and is being kept updated on all aspects of school life.

Attendance update

At the start of the new year we want to remind you all about our expectations for good attendance and punctuality.

As you're aware, the school day starts promptly at 8.50am with our prayer on the playground. Children arriving at school after the prayer will be asked to sign in via the office reception area and will be marked in the register as late. Children should not be allowed to enter the playground via the side gate by parents/carers who are leaving the playground.

Any request for term time absence must be completed in writing, by completing the request for absence form: [St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School - Forms and downloads](#) and submitted to the school office for the attention of Leonne Ward at least two weeks in advance of the requested absence. Please remember, in line with statutory guidance, requests for term time holiday cannot be authorised.

If you require help with your child/ren's punctuality or attendance please see Leonne Ward or Steph Woolley who will be able to provide you with appropriate support.

Analysis of parent/carers survey term 2 2025

Thank you to everyone who engaged in our parent/carers annual survey in term 2. In total 92 responses were received.

The strengths can be identified as follows:

- 99% state their child/ren is happy at school
- 98% state their child/ren feels safe at school

- 97% state the newsletter provides them with relevant information.
- 85% are aware of the range of information sessions available for parents/carers at St Bons and how to access them (SEND support group; EAL group; School Improvement session; Parent focus group)
- 85% state there is a range of extra-curricular activities available for children.
- 80% state they learn valuable information about their children and their progress at parent's evening.

Areas for us to address include:

- 42% are aware of the RSE, Relationship and Sex Education, taught in their children's year group.
- 74% state the school website provides relevant up to date information.
- 69% are aware of the content of the curriculum for my child/ren.
- 60% state their child enjoys the school lunches.
- 64% state when they have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. 15% of parents/carers do not know if their concern has been dealt with properly.
- For parents/carers whose child is on the SEND register, 67% are aware and involved in setting the targets on my child's learning plan.

What we're going to do next:

- Revisit the RSE policy and ensure teachers inform parents/carers of the RSE content for each year group.
- Ensure a termly curriculum overview is shared with all parents/carers via Google classroom.
- Monitor the quality and provision of school lunches.
- Build upon the existing opportunities for parents/carers to visit their child's classroom, see their child's work. Ensure photos of pupils learning are regularly shared on Google classroom.
- Ensure parents/carers are fully informed about the outcome of any concerns they have raised.
- Ensure SEND learning plans are shared with all parents/carers and parents contribute to the objectives set.
- Investigate a broader range of extra-curricular clubs to include more creative arts activities for pupils of all ages.

Dates for the month ahead:

- Wednesday 14th January Trust SENDCO visit 9:30am-2pm, by appointment only.
- Friday 16th January SEND parent/carers meeting facilitated by the school nurse. Book a slot to drop in between 9-10am.
- Friday 23rd January:
 - 9-10am parent/carer School Improvement Plan session with Mrs Woolley.
 - 10am 4D class assembly.
- Friday 30th January 10am 4L class assembly.
- Friday 6th February 10am 1CR class assembly.

Thank you everyone for your support and good wishes this week.

Best wishes

Stephanie Woolley

UP COMING DATES:

Week beginning 12th January (menu week 2)

Friday 16th – Bake sale after school – Year 1

W/B 19th January

Friday 23rd – 4D Class assembly 10:00-10:30

Bake sale after school – Reception

Dates
for your



Catholic Life at St Bons this week

Our New Gospel Theme: Seek the Truth

For Terms 3 and 4, our overarching Gospel theme is "Seek the Truth." This theme will act as a golden thread running through our curriculum, particularly within our Power of Reading books and our wider foundation subjects.

Through this lens, the children will explore concepts such as:

Fairness in our local and global communities.

The pursuit of Justice for the marginalised.

The importance of Equality as children of God.

The courage required to always speak the Truth.

We look forward to seeing how these values inspire the children's writing and their understanding of the world around them.

Ethos and Reflection: Being Our Best Selves

In our first Ethos Assembly of the year, we gathered to discuss what it means to be our "best selves" within our school gates. We reflected on how this isn't just about one thing, but a combination of:

Our Work: Giving our best effort in every lesson.

Our Rules: Respecting the boundaries that keep our community safe and happy.

Our Relationships: Treating one another with kindness and dignity.

As it is a new year, the children spent time in prayerful reflection and talking to partners about their personal goals. Several children bravely shared their New Year's Resolutions with the whole school. We have promised to support one another and "keep an eye out" to help our friends stick to these positive changes!

Celebrating the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany has been the heart of our prayer life this week. In our Celebration of the Word assemblies, the children journeyed with the Magi. We contemplated the awe the Wise Men must have felt upon seeing the infant Jesus for the first time. The children offered their reflections on what their own personal message to the baby Jesus would be today.

To conclude our week, we gathered as a whole school family at the church for Mass. We would like to thank Canon Tom for his moving homily. He reminded the children that while the Wise Men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the greatest gift we can offer Jesus today is living a good life and helping others.



St Bon's February Play Scheme 2026 -EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We would like to run the February Play Scheme this February Half Term. Further to our emails, in order to gauge interest to ensure that the Play Scheme is viable, we ask that parents/carers complete this **Expression of Interest Form** with the sessions they would be interested in booking **by Wednesday 14th January 2026**.

[February Play Scheme 2026 Expression of Interest](#)

Once we have an idea of numbers, we will let parents/carers know by Friday 16th January if the Play Scheme will run in order for tax-free/voucher payers to put their payments through. Bookings will then open on Wednesday 21st January and close on Friday 6th February. Late bookings may be possible after this date subject to availability.

The February Play Scheme dates would run from Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026.

The proposed costs would be:

Short Sessions 10am to 4pm - £26 per session

Long Sessions 8.30am to 5.45pm - £33 per session

If you are unable to add your interest to the form, please email cevans@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com the sessions/dates you would be interested in and she will add them to the form for you.

Thank you.

Kidzone

Coaching with Sophie - New clubs

Coaching with Sophie will be running two new Tuesday clubs as follows (in addition to her usual After School Sports Clubs):

Tuesday Get Active Mornings (all years - Reception to Year 6 - boys and girls) - 8am start - £25 for the term

Tuesday Lunchtime Girls Only Football Club (now open to Years **4**, 5 and 6) - £25 for the term

Please if you are booking the lunchtime club, it would be helpful if you can provide a packed lunch for your child rather than ordering a school lunch.

Those that have expressed interest and anyone else who is interested can now book direct with Sophie via her website: [St. Bonaventures – Coaching with Sophie](#)

This is a really exciting new opportunity so please book now to avoid disappointment.

Volunteers to assist with Y1 art:

Miss Davis is looking for some parent volunteers to assist with Y1 art on a Tuesday afternoon. Is this something you can help with? The volunteers will need to be parents who do not have children in Y1. You do not have to commit to every Tuesday. You do not need to already have a DBS as you will be in the classroom with Miss Davis. Please let the office know if you can help. Many thanks

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



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 - Happy new year!

Welcome back! From all of us in the PTFA, we hope you had a fabulous Christmas break and have stepped into 2026 nicely refreshed.



We have plenty of activities in the pipeline for 2026, as well as some potential new things to work on, and we look forward to your support - it makes the world of difference to our children's school experience. More to come over the next few weeks...

PTFA activities

Friday Feast Day

With Reception's Feast Day on January 23rd, we are nearing the end of our bake sales. Once we have the final total raised, we'll work with the school on distributing the funds in support of purchasing enrichment items on class wish lists, and we'll update you on what the money has been used for.

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

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

With Many Thanks

Johanna Probert - Committee Member (Communications and Engagement)