



Friday 19th December 2025

Dear parents and carers,

*May the awe of the shepherds inspire us,
May the strength of Joseph protect us,
May the peace of Mary shelter us,
May the presence of the angels look after us,
May Jesus look over us today, tomorrow and forever.
And May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you now and always.
Amen.*



It has been a wonderfully busy week in school with our nativity performances, KS2 Carol service and Christmas lunch all taking place. I would like to share my thanks with the staffing team who have worked incredibly hard to prepare for and ensure these events take place.



Over the Christmas period I hope you all find time to stop and spend time with your families and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you all back at the start of January.

Dates for the month ahead:

- **Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th January inset days, school closed to pupils.**
- Wednesday 7th January first day of term 3 for pupils.
- Friday 9th January 9.15am Epiphany Mass in St Bons church all parents/carers welcome to attend.
- Wednesday 14th January Trust SENDCO drop in 9am-2pm.
- 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/carers School Improvement Plan session with Mrs Woolley,
 - 10am 4D class assembly.
- Friday 30th January 10am 4L class assembly.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal
St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary

Catholic Life at St Bon's this week

As we draw closer to the feast of the Nativity, our school has been transformed by the true spirit of Advent. This week has been a wonderful testament to our school mission, as we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus next week. From the vibrant energy of our youngest performers to the solemnity of our Advent Mass, the joy of Christ has been evident in everything we do.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children brought the Christmas story to life this week with their spectacular Nativity performances. Telling the story through the eyes of the animals in the stable, the children helped us reflect on the profound importance of Jesus' birth—both in Bethlehem and in our lives today.

Despite the grey and wet December weather, every child let their light shine through song, dance, and acting. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and we are immensely proud of the confidence and joy they shared with their parents and the whole school community.

An Evening of Song and Scripture

On Tuesday evening, our Key Stage 2 pupils led us in a Carol Service. It was a lovely occasion for families to gather and focus on the scripture and carols that tell the story the birth of our Saviour. The children's voices reminded us all of the peace and hope that Christmas brings to the world.



Our Advent Mass

Today, we gathered as a school family for our Advent Mass at the church. We would like to thank Lola and Reuben for their confident readings, and Alex for leading us in our Bidding Prayers.

Canon Tom shared a homily, reminding the children that while Christmas is a time of great celebration, it is also a time to think of others—particularly those for whom this time of year can be difficult. His message centred on the "true meaning" of the season: God's love in action.

Christmas Celebrations & Giving Back

The festive spirit was in full swing this morning as children danced through the gates to Christmas music, sporting an array of wonderful Christmas jumpers and hats! This was followed by a delicious Christmas lunch shared together in the hall.



However, amidst the celebrations, our pupils have remained mindful of their roles as "good neighbours." We are overwhelmed by your generosity:

- The Julian Trust: All donations were collected today and will be delivered next week to support those in need.
- Our Community: Christmas cards have been delivered to our local neighbours who continue to support some of our vulnerable families.
- CAFOD: Year 3 have successfully completed their sponsored silence! We are currently counting the proceeds to support CAFOD's vital global work.

A Final Thank You

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank our families for your incredible participation and support throughout this busy week. Whether you attended the Carol Service, nativity, or contributed to our charities, your presence and support makes our school the vibrant Catholic community it is.

We wish you all a peaceful, holy, and truly joyous Christmas.

UP COMING DATES:

w/b 5th January (menu week 1)

Monday 5th January - **Inset day** - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 6th - **Inset day**- school closed to pupils

Wednesday 7th - First day of Term 3.

Friday 9th - 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





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

Coaching with Sophie who runs our amazing After School sports clubs is hoping to open up two exciting new sessions in Term 3, subject to interest. Please find attached posters with the details.

For now, we are gauging interest only to see if the clubs are viable. If we have enough numbers you will be able to book on Coaching with Sophie's website.

If you are interested in one of these clubs, please email

cevans@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com by Wednesday 7th January confirming which pupils would like to attend on which days.

COACHING WITH SOPHIE

GIRLS FOOTBALL

LUNCH TIME CLUB

TUESDAYS TERM 3
£25 FOR TERM3 (£5 PER SESSION)
IN SCHOOL HOURS
YEAR 5 & 6

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

COACHING WITH SOPHIE

GET ACTIVE MORNINGS

EARLY MORNING SPORTS CLUB

TUESDAYS TERM 3
£25 FOR TERM3 (£5 PER SESSION)
BEFORE SCHOOL 8AM-8.40AM
RECEPTION - YEAR 6

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Hello everyone



Message of the Week – Have a wonderful Christmas!

From all of us in the PTFA, **we wish you all a relaxing and happy festive period** with your loved ones.

Thank you for all your support so far this year and we look forward to seeing you all again at one of our events in 2026.



PTFA activities

Christmas Shop

From Christmas cards, coasters, mugs and many more, there's still time to order some Christmas gifts designed by our children.

You can view and order at [St Bonaventures Christmas shop](https://stbonaventureschristmasshop.co.uk/) and 20% from every purchase goes to the PTFA.

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

Friday Feast Day

We'll be back in the new year with the postponed remaining bake sales:

Year 1 - January 16th

Reception - January 23rd

PTFA management

Meetings

Minutes from our last meeting can be found on the [PTFA website](https://stbonsptfa.com/). 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 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