



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Prayer of Cardinal Newman
*May the Lord support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen.*

A message from Mrs Ballantine

Thank you so much for my gorgeous flowers and very generous vouchers. It was such a lovely surprise and so very kind of you all. I hope the new term has started well for you all. I am really missing being in school and being with the children and I am already counting down the days until I can return. With love,
Mrs Ballantine x

Reminder of winter school uniform

With the cold weather persisting please ensure you send your child to school with a coat appropriate for the weather. Unless there is heavy rain, the children will be outside and a warm coat is a must.

Likewise, we do continue to take the children outside for some PE lessons. The winter PE kit consists of either navy joggers or leggings and a white T-shirt. Pupils should continue to wear their St Bons logo sweatshirt/jumper or cardigan. Branded sports sweatshirts with logos should not be worn to school.

Dates for the month ahead:

- Friday 23rd January:
 - 9-10am parent/carers School Improvement Plan session with Mrs Woolley.
 - 10am 4D class assembly.
 - Bake sale after school (Reception)
- Friday 30th January: 4L class assembly - 10am.
- Thursday 4th February – Unique Voice parent session 2:45-3:15 in hall.
- Friday 6th February: 1CR class assembly - 10am
- Friday 13th February:
 - 9-10am parent/carers SEND support meeting.
 - Last day of term 3. School closed for half term.
- Monday 23rd February first day of term 4.

Best wishes
Stephanie Woolley

Catholic Life at St Bons this week.

Our week began with our Ethos Assembly, where the school community gathered to reflect on our individual journeys. In our "Sacred Silence," children were encouraged to look inward and consider if they had been their "best selves" over the past week.

We revisited some of our personal resolutions, celebrating the small but significant victories in our classrooms:

- Finn (Year 6) has been courageously embracing challenging Maths problems.
- Florence (5B) has shown resilience in both her academic work and her friendships.
- Gloriana (4D) has made great strides in her focus and engagement in class.

These examples remind us that our mission is not just a statement on a wall, but a daily commitment to growth supported by one another.

Encountering the Saints

We were privileged to welcome Doctor Doyle to lead a special assembly focused on the teachings of Saint John Henry Newman. He spoke to the children about how we care for one another, rooted in Newman's teachings on heart speaking to heart and the values of the Newman trust

A historic moment for the school was when Doctor Doyle shared some grade two relics of St John Henry Newman that have been entrusted to the Newman Trust. For many of our children (and staff), this was their first experience of a relic.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Wednesday marked a special milestone with our first class Mass of the year, led by 6G. It was lovely to welcome parents and parishioners into school to share the experience with the children. Canon Tom spent time explaining the significance of the various parts of the Mass, from the preparation of the altar to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Following the Mass, he held an insightful Q&A session, where the children asked probing questions about the rituals they had witnessed.

The Gospel (Luke 3:15-22) focused on the Baptism of Jesus. Canon Tom spoke about the children's own baptisms, emphasising that through this sacrament, we all become cherished members of God's family. Our parishioners were particularly touched by the "respectful and calm" atmosphere the children created.



Celebrating Love and Seeking Truth

We closed the week with our "Walk the Walk" Assembly, a time to celebrate faith in action.

- Reviewing 'Love Thy Neighbour': We heard feedback from every class on the impact of their Term 1 and 2 Faith Awards. It was humbling to hear how our children's actions have directly improved the lives of others in our community.
- A New Theme: We have now launched our Gospel theme for Terms 3 and 4: "Seek the Truth." This theme focuses on fairness, justice, and the desire to make a positive difference in the world.

Congratulations to the first recipients of the "Seek the Truth" certificates! These pupils were recognised for being role models of integrity and justice. We look forward to deepening our understanding of this theme through our Power of Reading texts and our wider curriculum over the coming weeks.



Kidzone - February Half Term PlayScheme

Bookings for the February Play Scheme will open on Wednesday 21st January.

If you wish to pay for the February Play Scheme by TFC/childcare voucher, we recommend that you make your payments early so that they can be reconciled and credited to Arbor each Monday. If you are making a payment by TFC/childcare voucher and need it split between Kidzone clubs, please email cevans@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com to let Caroline know the split.

Bookings will close on Friday 6th February so please do make your bookings in good time. There may be the option for late bookings subject to availability but we would like to know the bulk of the bookings by the 6th so that we can ensure we have sufficient staffing in place.

The cost of the sessions are as follows:

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

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

Please note that the KidZone email has now changed –

kidzone@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com

Please use this email for any enquiries for afterschool club or playscheme

School Governors

Our school governors play a vital role in supporting the leadership, staff, and children by helping to shape the vision of the school, ensuring we continue to provide the best possible education and experience for every pupil. Meeting every term, they work closely with the school team offering guidance, challenge and encouragement and are always keen to listen to the views of our families and wider community. If you would like to get in touch with the governors, share feedback, or raise a question, you can contact them directly at clerk@stbo.newmancatholictrust.com.



Well done to our dodgeball team who played at St Bedes on Monday. Both teams played amazingly and came 2nd in the competition.

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 – PTFA Chair: it could be you?

We're still on the lookout for a PTFA Chair.

This is a key role within the PTFA. The main responsibilities of a Chair are outlined in more detail at [PTA+ PTA committee roles and responsibilities](#).

For more information about the St Bona PTFA and how it's run, please visit [About Us | St Bona PTFA](#).

This could be a solo effort or a shared role with another individual. If you're interested and wanting to make a real difference in the school experience for our children, please email contact@stbonsptfa.com.



PTFA activities

We're getting started on the activity pipeline for 2026, with lots of fun things coming up which we look forward to updating you on. In the meantime, we have the Year One bake sale concluding today and one more (Reception) to go next week, January 23rd.

PTFA management Meetings

The next PTFA meeting will be week commencing 26th January, date TBC. Any questions or concerns you'd like to raise, please email contact@stbonsptfa.com. Alternatively, all are welcome to attend the meeting itself.

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, Summer 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)

PORTISHEAD 6TH JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY

SATURDAY 21ST FEB
10AM - 4.30PM
AGES 5-18
Somerset Hall, The Precinct,
Portishead, Bristol BS20 6AH

BOOK TICKETS AT:
[TINYURL.COM/5X68D7ZR](https://tinyurl.com/5X68D7ZR)
OR SCAN THE CODE BELOW





 portisheadchessclub@gmail.com www.portisheadchess.com