ST BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ

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Friday 16th October 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is error, the truth;
where there is doubt, the faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

We are currently celebrating the Year of St Francis, a special Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV. October marks the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi (who died on October 3, 1226).
Each year the Newman Catholic Education Trust organises an art competition across all of its schools. This year the children have been invited to produce a piece of art work about God's amazing world. This could link to St Francis or could be about why creation matters to us. However the children choose to approach this, it should contain a powerful message about our planet. Children are invited to complete this at home, there are prizes for the winning entries. The deadline is Thursday 5th November.

Secondary school application deadline
The deadline for September 2027 secondary school applications is 31st October 2026. Please ensure you make your online application before the deadline. If you need any help please come and see Gina Beattie.

Key dates for the month ahead:

- Tuesday 20th October parents evening 3.45-6.30pm, Flu immunisations
- Wednesday 21st October 2.30-3.15pm SEND information session for parents/carers of pupils with SEND.
- Thursday 22nd October last day of term 1. Pupils invited to wear bright clothes for CAFOD Harvest appeal. Suggested donation £1.00, cash on the day or card payment via Arbor shop.
- Friday 23rd October inset day. Holiday club operating school hours. Please book via Arbor.
- Saturday 31st October current year 6 deadline for secondary school applications.
- Monday 2nd November inset day. Holiday club operating school hours. Please book via Arbor.
- Tuesday 3rd November first day of term 2.
- Wednesday 4th November parents evening for parents/carers with a pupil on the SEND register.
- Friday 6th November parent/carer school improvement plan session with principal 9-10am.

Best wishes,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal

Catholic Life at St Bons this week.

This week has been a wonderful celebration of faith, prayer and service at St Bonaventure's, with many opportunities for our children to live out our mission of building God's Kingdom in our school community.

On Monday, our Ethos Assembly launched an exciting new project focused on how we can continue to build God's Kingdom at St Bonaventure's during playtimes. Children began reflecting on how they can make our playtimes a more inclusive for everyone. This important work will be taken forward by our School Council and Year 6 pupils, who will be leading plans to transform playtimes across the school. Every class will share their ideas after half term, but it has already been inspiring to see so many Year 6 pupils stepping forward with creative suggestions, including the running of lunchtime clubs to support younger children and provide new opportunities for friendship, fun and service.

Following our Chaplaincy Team training last week, members of the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team have enthusiastically put their learning into action. They have created a beautiful prayer space in our chapel dedicated to Our Lady, helping children to deepen their relationship with Mary through prayer and reflection. Throughout the week, they have also been inviting Key Stage 1 children to join them at lunchtime to pray a decade of the Rosary together. Their leadership and commitment to nurturing the faith life of our school community has been wonderful to witness.
Next week, our Chaplaincy Team will lead a whole-school Rosary assembly as part of Aid to the Church in Need's *One Million Children Praying the Rosary* campaign. Joining children from around the world, we will unite in prayer for peace, asking Mary to intercede for all those affected by conflict and suffering.

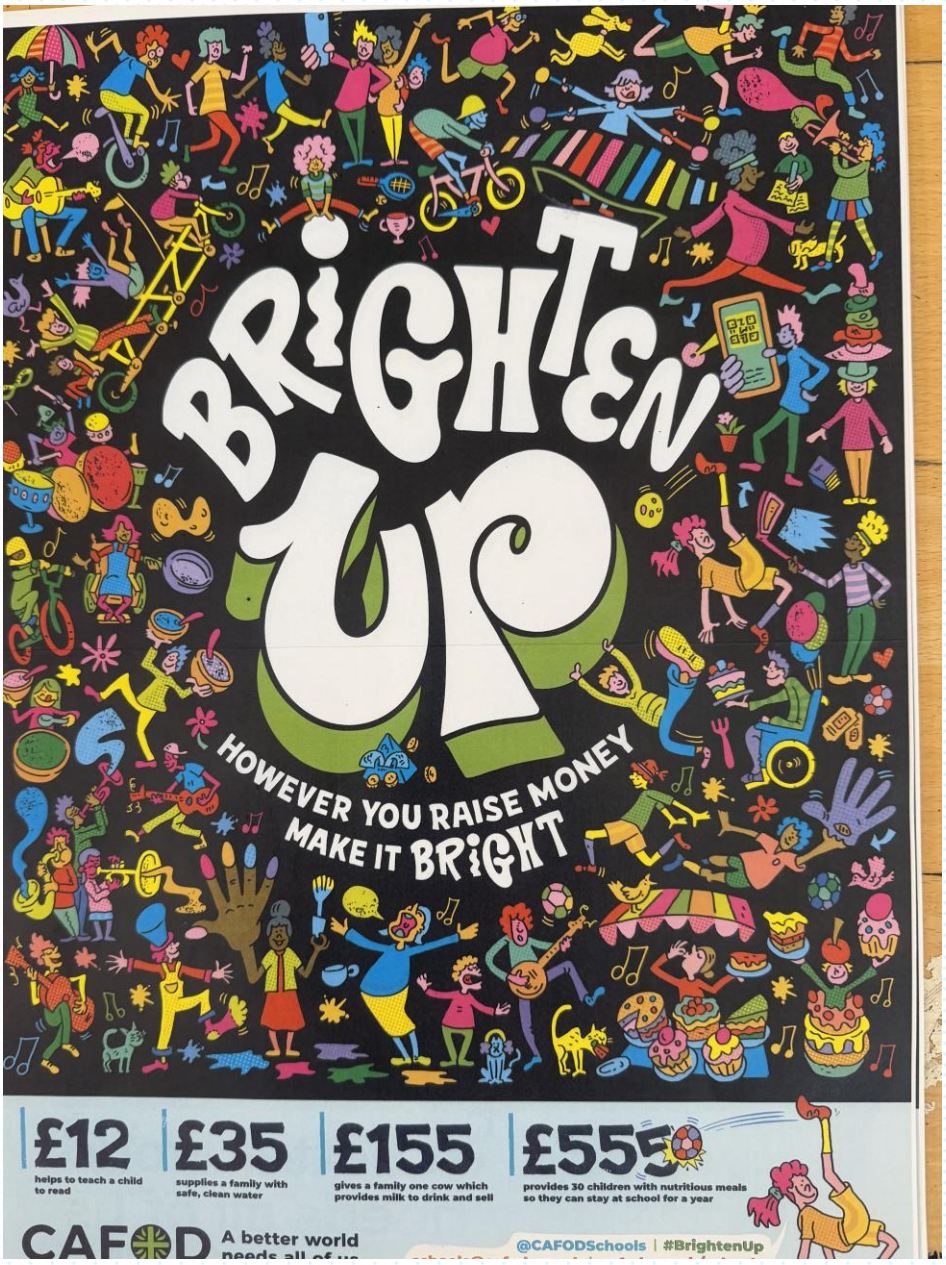
We were also delighted to celebrate our first Class Mass of the school year with Class 6G. Canon Tom led a beautiful Mass, joined by members of our parish community, making it a truly special occasion. Celebrating together on the Feast of St Teresa of Ávila provided an opportunity to reflect on her inspiring example of prayer, courage and faithfulness to God. It was a joyful celebration of faith and a wonderful way to strengthen the bonds between our school and parish family.

As we continue through this term, we give thanks for the enthusiasm, leadership and faith shown by our pupils. Through prayer, service and action, they are helping to make St Bonaventure's a place where God's love is seen and felt every day.

Brighten Up Harvest Day - Thursday 22 October
This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together in support of others around the world through CAFOD's Harvest Appeal. A small contribution can make a life-changing difference to families and children in some of the world's poorest communities.
On **Thursday 22 October**, we will be holding our **Brighten Up Harvest Day** to raise money for the **CAFOD Harvest Appeal**.
Children are invited to come to school wearing their brightest colours to help us celebrate the joy of giving and supporting those in need. We kindly ask families to make a donation either through **Arbor** or by giving cash at the school gate on the day.
All funds raised will support communities through **CAFOD's World Gifts Campaign**, helping to provide practical and lasting support where it is needed most. For example:

- **£12** can help teach a child to read.
- **£35** can provide a family with safe, clean water.
- **£155** can give a family a cow, providing fresh milk to drink and sell.
- **£555** can provide **30 children** with nutritious meals, enabling them to stay in school for a year.

Every donation, no matter how small, will help make a real difference. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of this important cause. Together, we can help brighten the future for children and families around the world.
Donations can be made in cash on the day or by card payment via the Arbor app under school shop.



On Monday, we will be praying a decade of the Rosary together during our school assembly as part of our celebration of the Month of the Rosary.
If your child has their own rosary beads at home, they are very welcome to bring them into school for the assembly.
We would also be very grateful for any donations of rosary beads that families no longer need. Demand for our lunchtime Rosary sessions continues to grow, and any additional rosaries would help more children to take part.
Thank you for your support.

Lost Property
Please can we remind parents to clearly name jumpers and cardigans, those left in the classroom can then easily be given back.
Lost property is put into the black lost property box outside the school office, this is emptied at the beginning of every month so please check regularly.

Bikes and Scooters
The bike and scooter storage is currently over flowing which makes it hard for children to park up and poses as a health and safety risk.
Whilst we encourage children to cycle or scoot to school we can not store these and should be collected at the end of the day.
If your child has a bike or scooter left in school could you please make sure it is brought home.
Any left at the end of term will be disposed of during the October half term.

Break time snacks
In key stage 1 children are given free fruit for snack. From year 3 children can bring in a healthy, **nut free** snack from home. Children should not bring crisps, chocolate bars or sweets.





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

All children and adults welcome
For runners and walkers of all abilities

EAL (English as an additional language) Coffee mornings **Every Tuesday 2:15-3:20**
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.



Hello everyone

Message of the week – Sunflower growing competition 2026



Yes it's October and yes we're talking sunflowers but…

… as part of our Grow With It campaign last year, the PTFA provided sunflower seeds for children to grow their own sunflowers at home.

If your child grew a sunflower, there's a chance to win a £15 book voucher by going to St Bonaventure's PTFA Sunflower Growing Competition and filling out the short survey.

Other PTFA news

Uniform shed update





Following our reminder about the uniform shed last week, we have undertaken another stocktake courtesy of our new uniform shed rep, Lorna.

Because of the volume of items, we are **currently not accepting any more donations**.

We will be holding a sale event to relieve some of the stock pressure, and will confirm the date shortly.

Once donations are open again, we will **only be selling branded items** such as PE kit, jumpers, cardigans, summer dresses, coats and shoes. These should be dropped into the school office and the PTFA will collect and sort.

REMINDER: Any lost property found in the school goes into the lost property box, **NOT** the uniform shed.

Feast Day Fridays



Year 3 had a great Feast Day Friday last week, raising **£236**. That's a grand total of **£862** raised so far!



Remember, Feast Day Friday funds are put in a pot that goes towards buying items from wish lists created by the students and teachers. These items will enrich school life, so please keep engaging with the events.

Year 2 are up on **Friday, 6th November**.

PTFA management
Meetings
We're in the thick of this year's planning. The latest PTFA meeting took place on October 7th. The minutes will be available soon at St Bons PTFA.

Our next meeting is on November 4th, 8-9.30PM. All are welcome to attend and see what we get up to.

Get in touch
If you have any feedback or wish to join the PTFA, please email us at contact@stbonsptfa.com, contact us through your class rep, or catch us in the playground.

With Many Thanks
Johanna Probert – Committee Member (Communications and Engagement)

Community News

Parents/carers prayer group

There is a Christian prayer group that meet once a month in the church next to school. We meet for 30 minutes, on different days of the week and pray together for our school community. Toys available for any little ones who come along. Please contact Harri if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp group 07969059624. *Everyone is welcome to join us*

First Holy Communion 2027

Application forms for First Holy Communion 2027 for children in year 3 and above are now available to collect from Canon Tom after Mass. Please collect, complete and return the form to Canon Tom.





