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

Tel 0117 353 2830
Absence Line 0117 353 2831
Email st.bonaventures.p@bristol-schools.uk
Email admissions.stbonaventures@bristol-schools.uk

Friday 13th November 2026

Dear parents and carers,

O Father, as the chill of winter envelops us,
we seek Your warmth and comfort.
May Your love shine like the sun on the dreariest days,
guiding us through the cold nights.
Strengthen our spirits and fill our hearts with hope,
reminding us of the beauty in every season.
Amen.

Winter readiness

The cold weather seems to have crept up on us. Please can you ensure that all children are sent into school with a named warm coat. We do go outside in all weathers therefore named hats, scarfs and gloves are also recommended.

As we do head into the colder months, colds and runny noses are common in schools. We do expect all children to come to school and we would discourage children having time off school for a minor illness such as a cold. If you are unsure whether to send your child to school please consult: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Term 3 parents evening for pupils with SEND

The next parents evening for parent/scarers of pupils with SEND will take place on Monday 8th February 3.30-5.30. Information about how to book an appointment will be shared at the start of term 3.

Key dates for the month ahead:

- Monday 16th November- Odd Socks Day to mark the start of National anti-bullying week.
- WB: Monday 16th November- National anti-bullying week:
    - ❖ Monday 16th November- pupils can wear odd socks for anti-bullying week.
    - ❖ Thursday 19th November- Unique Voice parent session 2:40pm in school hall
- Wednesday 18th November-Friday 20th November- Year 6 retreat to Kintbury.
- Friday 27th November- pupils can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair bottle stall.
- Saturday 28th November St Bons Christmas Fair- 3:00pm-6:00pm.
- Friday 4th December drama club performance and KS2 carol concert 3:20 – 4:20pm & 6:00pm-7:00pm information on tickets will be emailed separately.
- Thursday 10th and Friday 11th 2:00pm– Nativity performance RH, 1R, 2G
- Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th 2:00pm– Nativity performance, RR, 1CR, 2TP
- Thursday 17th December Christmas lunch day. Pupils can wear a festive jumper.

Best wishes,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal

Catholic Life at St Bonaventure's: A Busy and Blessed Start to Term 2

We have enjoyed a very busy and prayerful start to Term 2, with many opportunities for our children to deepen their faith, reflect on their relationship with God, and live out our Catholic values within the school community.

At the beginning of November, we gathered together for a special service to celebrate All Saints' Day. Focusing on the Beatitudes, we reflected on how our school saints modelled the virtues of faith, hope and love throughout their lives. The children considered what message these saints might have for us today and how we can continue their mission in the world around us. We also listened to the inspiring words of Pope Benedict XVI, who encouraged young people to become the saints of the 21st century. The children spent time reflecting on this challenge and thinking about the ways in which they can bring God's love to others through their words and actions each day.

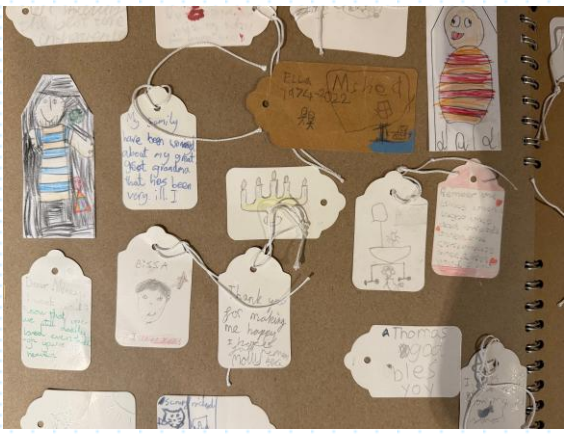
Following All Souls' Day, we took time to remember and pray for those who have died. During worship, I shared our school Memory Book, which contains heartfelt dedications and memories written by children for family members, friends and beloved pets who are no longer with us. It was a moving opportunity to remember those who remain close to our hearts.

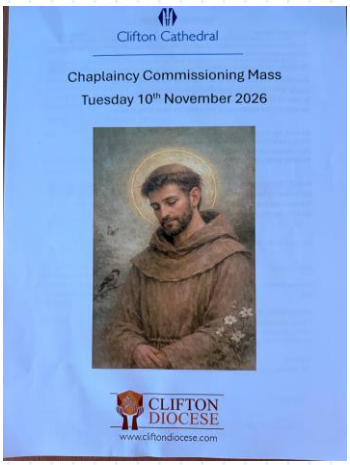
This week, members of our Year 6 Chaplaincy Team were commissioned by Bishop Bosco MacDonald at Clifton Cathedral, alongside chaplaincy representatives from schools across the Clifton Diocese. Bishop Bosco thanked the children for their commitment and dedication to this important ministry and spoke about the positive difference they can make within their school communities. We are incredibly proud of the way our chaplains embrace their responsibilities and serve as role models for younger pupils.

We were also delighted to celebrate Mass this week with Canon Tom, led by 6WA. The children planned and prepared the liturgy with great care and reverence, leading the readings, prayers and singing beautifully. Several parishioners joined us for the celebration and commented on the children's confidence, thoughtful participation and wonderful singing. It was a joyful occasion that strengthened the links between our school and parish communities.

As we continue through the term, we look forward to many more opportunities to pray, worship and put our faith into action.









Unique Voice are thrilled to be able to offer a Parent/Carer session as part of their visit to St Bons. Unique Voice provides a specialised session for all parents and carers to share key up-to-date information and guidance surrounding bullying and young people. This session will look in-depth at the complex roles and emotions present in a bullying situation, and empower parents and carers to take an active role in supporting their young person through challenging relationships.
There are 3 ways to watch this session

1. Live in person at St Bonaventure's Primary School on Thursday 19th from 2:40pm - 3:10pm.
2. Live online during Anti-Bullying Week on **Tuesday 17th November at 12:30pm.** Anti-Bullying Week Parent/Carer Webinar
3. Online in your own time via a pre-recorded parent/carer session which is available via this link.

A huge congratulations to the St Bons swim team who took part in a swim gala on Sunday, schools from all over Bristol took part and St Bons came first place! Well done, we are extremely proud.

EAL (English as an additional language) Coffee Afternoon



Join us 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.





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

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 box outside the school office, this is cleared at the beginning of every month so please check regularly







READING KARATE



Reading is a lifelong skill and at St Bons we to encourage reading for pleasure. Reading Karate is a reward-based system for reading at home, which results in the children moving up through coloured 'belts', depending on how many times they have read.

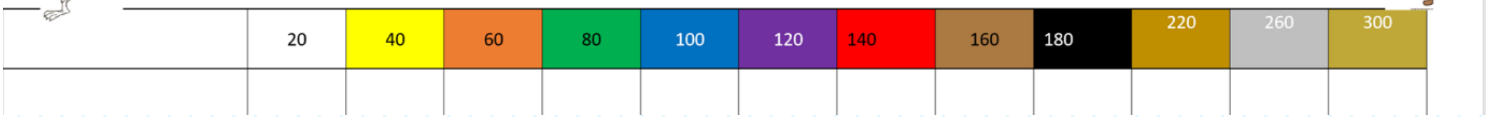
KS1

In KS1 we ask for an **adult** to number, sign and date the reading records (comments do not need to be long if you wish to write- title of book/number of pages read is fine). Only **1 read per day** counts. For every 20 reads, we are asking for the **children to show** their reading record to the teacher/LSA and they will get presented a certificate. After 'black belt', it increases to every **40 reads** to reach 'Gold' (300). Reading Karate is then **reset for the next school year**. We want our children to grow a love for reading, so alongside the levelled school books, children can share/read their own book of choice. We don't expect a whole book to be read! A few pages each night is fine. Reading Karate is more about how often you read, not how many books. It will be ok to back date to start of term 1.



Reading Karate Belt Chart





KS2

From Year 3 all the way to Year 6, children will work to get their Junior, Dans, Masters, Sensei and Hall of Fame status. This is a continuous journey, where it will not be reset over the summer holidays, so by the end of year 6, children should be able to become a reading sensei. Children can write the date, name of book/pages read and number the reads but we ask that an **adult signs the reading record** for staff to check weekly. **One read per day counts**. Alongside the levelled school books, children can share/read their own book of choice (e-books etc count!). At the end of the year, we like to celebrate our 'high achieving' readers in KS1/KS2 and do a fun activity with them. Any questions please let us know. Happy reading!

Miss Jones and Miss Davis

HLTAs

Karate Dans	Reads
Junior Award	100
White Dan	200
Yellow Dan	250
Orange Dan	300
Green Dan	350
Blue Dan	400
Red Dan	450
Gold Star Dan	500

Karate Masters	Reads
White Reading Master	550
Yellow Reading Master	600
Orange Reading Master	650
Green Reading Master	700
Blue Reading Master	750
Red Reading Master	800
Black Reading Master	850
Reading Sensei	900
Hall of Fame	1000+

ST BON'S PTFA

contact@stbonsptfa.com | www.stbonsptfa.com | @stbonsptfa | St Bons Parents & Carers

Hello everyone

Message of the week – All things festive!

Christmas Fair



The Christmas Fair takes place on **November 28th, 3-6PM** at St Bonaventure's Primary School.

Tickets now on sales at St Bon's PTFA.

Raffle tickets came home with the children this week, and class reps are busy being Santa's Little Helpers with organising hampers, rotas and more…

We need the whole school community to get behind this and make it the best it can possibly be.
<- see our handy checklist for all things festive fair-related

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

Christmas artwork shop

Still open (until December 31st!)

The children have been busy in school creating some amazing designs.
They are now ready for you to view and order at MyChildsArt

NEW FOR 2026
- add photos from home
- add multiple child's artwork to the same product. Perfect for siblings.

If your child's art isn't on the portal, or you have any issues contact them directly, customer services: 01530 887650.

And even better, 20% from every purchase goes to the PTFA… Happy shopping

Other PTFA news

Feast Day Fridays
Year two total from last week is in and a whopping £269.80 was raised, meaning we have raised **£1131.80** raised so far!

Reception are up next week, the final week of Feast Day Fridays this year, on November 20th.

Disco fundraising update
We're still getting final receipts and checking everything. We hope to be able to confirm the total profit by end of next week.

PTFA management

Meetings
We're in the thick of this year's planning. The latest PTFA meeting took place on November 4th. The minutes will be available soon at St Bons PTFA.

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.