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

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Friday 20th November 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Gracious Lord, in this Anti-Bullying Week, we seek Your divine strength and protection.
Wrap Your loving arms around us, shielding us from harm.
Grant them the resilience to rise above hurtful words and actions.
Empower our spirits to embrace our worth and recognise the unique gifts You have bestowed upon each of us.
Help us to find solace in Your unwavering presence, knowing that You are our ultimate source of strength.
Guide us, O Lord, to stand united against bullying, promoting a world filled with compassion and acceptance.
Amen.

We have had a busy week in school and have been engaging in the anti-bullying week: Break the Silence campaign. We celebrated Odd Socks Day on Monday and Mrs Woolley led a whole school assembly which I followed up on, on Tuesday. On Thursday the PTFA generously funded assemblies for each of the key stages provided by Unique Voice. Children have been told to speak out and share any concerns with their trusted adults. To support your child/ren please speak to them at home and remind them to talk to the adults who support them if they have any worries. There is also the 'What I want my teacher to know' box in every classroom where they can put a note for their teacher to read.



Year 6 have had a wonderful three days away on retreat at Kintbury. They spent time walking, engaged in reflection activities and completing arts and crafts. Thank you to the staff who have accompanied them and ensured the children have had a positive experience.



The Christmas tree arrives next week and the PTFA are extremely busy with final plans for the Christmas fair next Saturday. We will be sending home tickets for the EYFS/KS1 nativity, and KS2 drama production and carol concert (if you have requested them) on Monday 23rd November. Please look out for these tickets in your children's bags as replacement tickets will not be available.
If you do receive tickets that you know you will not use, please return these to the school office.

Attendance update
As we approach the end of term Christmas busyness, please can I ask that you do not request to take your child out of school for extended Christmas holidays.
We have a demanding curriculum and we do not 'wind down' or stop teaching in the last week of term. Any child who misses a day of school in the last week of term will miss out of valuable learning particularly in the key skills of phonics, spelling and maths. Likewise, I am expecting to see all pupils back in school at the start of term 3 which starts on Tuesday 5th January 2027. Thank you for your support.

Key dates for the month ahead:

- Monday 23rd November tickets for all Christmas productions will be sent home via children. Please check your child's bag.
- Wednesday 25th- Year 6 health screening.
- Thursday 26th – St Patricks house can wear non-uniform for most house points in term 1.
- Friday 27th November- all 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.
- Friday 18th December:
    - ❖ Advent Mass 9.15 in St Bons church. Parents/carers welcome.
    - ❖ Last day of term 2.

Best wishes,
Sarah Ballantine
Principal

Catholic Life at St Bonaventure's:

This week, our Catholic Life focus has linked closely with Anti-Bullying Week, encouraging children to reflect on how we treat one another and how we can build a kinder, more caring community. The national theme, "Break the Silence," challenged children to think about what they can do when they notice something is not right. Through assemblies and class discussions, pupils considered the importance of speaking up, offering support and showing courage when others need help.

This theme has connected well with our target behaviours for this term: noticing when someone needs a friend, support or encouragement, and choosing kindness in our words and actions. We have been reminded that small acts of kindness can make a significant difference to others and help us live out our school values each day.

In our Celebration of the Word assemblies, children reflected on Matthew 25 and the Parable of the Talents. Together, we explored how God has blessed each of us with unique gifts and talents, and how we are called to use these for the good of others. Children were encouraged to think about their own strengths and how they can share them in school, at home and within the wider community.

A highlight of the week has been our Year 6 spiritual retreat at Kintbury- St Cassian's, where pupils have had the opportunity to step away from their daily routines, encounter God in new ways and continue to grow in faith. Retreats offer a valuable chance for reflection and prayer, and we know the experience will remain with the children long after they return.

As we prepare to enter the season of Advent, we invite all members of our school community to take a moment to pause amidst the busyness of everyday life. Advent is a special time of waiting, hope and preparation, helping us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to make space for God in our hearts as we journey towards the celebration of Christ's birth.

Letters have gone out to order your child's Christmas lunch, please return this to the drop box outside the office by Monday 30th November at the very latest.



Welcome to Reception



If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2027 applications close on 15th January. Why not join one of our tours, or if you know someone applying this year let them know we have tours running up until the deadline and we would love to have them join us.

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 afternoons.
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





ST BON'S PTFA

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

Hello everyone

Message of the week – Christmas Fair – One Week To Go

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

Please note that many of Santa's grotto times are now sold out, and many storyteller spots are taken already.

Tickets now on sales at **St Bon's PTFA.**

Make sure you're busy selling those raffle tickets, gathering items for hampers and filling up the volunteer slots for the stalls assigned to your class.
In preparation for the event, see our handy checklist for all things festive fair-related
Thank you for your ongoing support.



Other PTFA news

Feast Day Fridays
Year one managed to raise £277.90, meaning we have raised **£1409.70** raised so far!
There is no Feast Day Friday next week due to the Christmas Fair being the main focus of the week.

Disco Success
A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our school disco and helped make it such a fantastic event. We're delighted to share that **the disco raised an amazing £1,754.38 profit** for our school!

A little reminder about Matched Giving: if your employer offers a Matched Giving scheme, please remember to submit your claim before the end of the year. It's a fantastic way to boost the money raised for our school, at no extra cost to you.

A special thank you to all the children, parents, carers, volunteers and everyone who gave their time and energy to help organise and run the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Christmas artwork shop
Our children's designs are available to buy until December 31st. You to view and order at MyChildsArt
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)

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.

