



Friday 25th November 2022

Dear parents and carers,

One of our year 1 children wanted to share this prayer with me – I am now sharing it with you!

Ary's Prayer

Father God, I thank you for the gift of life
And everything you have blessed me with today.

Thank you for my parents, friends and family. Thank you for keeping me safe.

Amen.

It has been yet another busy week in school. The children have enjoyed celebrating STEAM day on Thursday. The theme of the day was Bridge Building. Children from Reception to Year 5 took part and enjoyed designing and making model bridges to hold toy cars. Our thanks go to Mrs McAllister, our DT leader, who organised the day.



Reception child
and bridge



Year 4 working hard



Year 5 bridge

Y6 retreat

Our year 6 pupils have enjoyed their three-day retreat at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury. On behalf of all the year 6 parents and carers, I would like to say thank you to the staff who have accompanied the children. We appreciate you giving up your evenings and leaving your families to take our children away and provide them with this experience.

Mrs Niklewska's funeral arrangements

Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to the parent and carer collections for Bob and his father. It is very much appreciated. I am now in a position to confirm the funeral arrangements. Liz Niklewska's service will take place at 10.45am on Wednesday 7th December at St Bonaventure's Church. This will be followed by a service at Canford Crematorium. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Business Centre afterwards.

School car park

As the evenings are getting darker earlier, please can I ask that all parents and carers use the pavement to enter and exit the school in the afternoon and early evening. It is incredibly difficult for staff using the school car park to leave safely if parents and carers are walking through the car park on what is essentially a road. Please avoid doing this. Your support is very much appreciated.

Church car park

It has been brought to my attention that parents are parking in the drop off zone in the church car park, and using the disabled bays as parking spaces without displaying a blue badge. The drop off zone is designed so that the children who are old enough to walk into school are able to safely get out of the car which then leaves the car park. Do not leave your car unattended in this zone.

Reading scheme expectations

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some confusion about which levels children are expected to be reading at within our reading scheme.

All children progress and achieve their reading milestones at different rates.

The following is a guide to where children are expected to be by the **end of the year**:

Reception: level 6

Year 1: level 18

Year 2: level 24

Year 3: level 26

Year 4: level 28

Year 5: level 30

Year 6: level 30+

If your child is reading below the year group expectation please see your child's class teacher for advice on what you can do to support them. Reading at home four times a week can make the most difference.

I will be facilitating a reading information session for parents of KS2 pupils on Friday 27th January at 9am. More details about this will follow at the start of term 3.

Anti-bullying parent/carers consultation

Thank you to everyone who took part in my recent parent/carers consultation regarding our anti-bullying policy. In total, 74 responses were received.

Strengths:

- Representation from all year groups.
- Class teacher communication via email with parents is effective, particularly from Reception aged parents.

Things to take forward into revised anti-bullying policy/school practice:

- Teaching staff to inform parents/carers of an incident on the day it occurs.

- Ensure consistency of approach when responding to reports of bullying behaviour, with all adults supervising children during play and lunchtime.
- Throughout the school year, whole school and key stage assemblies about bullying, what to do if you are bullied and reinforcement of whole school approach.
- Ensure support and communication with both the victim and perpetrator are identified within the school approach.

I am in the process of using your responses to inform the revised anti-bullying policy. As soon as the policy has been agreed by the governing body I will share it with you all.

Staff news

It is with sadness that I inform you that we will be saying goodbye to Clare Benians in January. Clare has worked at St Bon's for the past eight years, providing admin support and more recently, PA support to myself. Whilst we will miss her terribly, Clare is moving on to an exciting new opportunity at a Bristol law firm. We wish her lots of luck in her new role. This does of course leave us with a vacancy – please see our eteach page <https://www.eteach.com/schools/st-bonaventure-s-catholic-primary-school-18065> if you are interested in applying, or would like to share this with someone.

Best,

Mrs Ballantine

Sarah Ballantine
Headteacher

Events from 28th November 2022 (MENU week 2)

Wednesday 30 th November:	Children in St Andrew's House wear blue home clothes to school
Thurs 1 st and Fri 2 nd December:	Bikeability Level 1
Friday 2 nd December:	BRING A BOTTLE (alcohol or soft drinks) for Christmas bottle stall. In date and unopened items only please! Children can wear home clothes in return.
Mon 5 th and Tues 6 th December:	Nativity performances @ 2pm for RHM, 1P and 2G
Weds 7 th and Thurs 8 th December:	Nativity performances @ 2pm for RH, 1CR and 2T

Drama Club next week

Monday's rehearsal is for the whole cast EXCEPT YEAR 3 and will finish at 4.30pm.
You will be informed if your child is needed for Thursday's rehearsal. If you do not hear anything from us, please assume that your child is not required.

Playscheme will be open for the INSET days in January

We appreciate that the Christmas holidays this year are longer than usual due to the two INSET days. We have therefore decided to open the Playscheme for these two days - Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th January.

The cost of a full day is £28 – the opening hours are 0830 until 1745.

The cost of a short day is £21 – opening hours are 1000 until 1600.

You can now book these sessions in School Gateway.

ASC and BC Term 3 – bookings now open

You can now book for Term 3 After School and Breakfast Clubs.

Please note that the charges for ASC have changed – there is now a flat rate of £11.50 per child. For staff with children at the school, there is a 25% discount available.

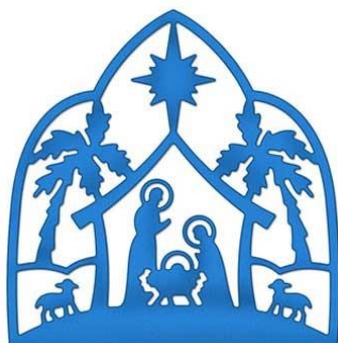
Clubs and sports at St Bon's

Week of 28th November

Drama	YES	Monday and Thursday KS2 (see above for details)
Premier Sport Football	YES – 4.30pm finish	Mondays - Y1, Y2, Y3 Tuesdays - Y4, Y5 Y6
Netball	YES – 4.15pm finish	Mondays – Y3 & 4 Tuesdays - Y5 & 6
Art with Miss Howard and Mrs Chakraverty	YES – LUNCHTIMES	Mondays – Reception, Y1 and Y2
Gymnastics	NO	Tuesdays – Y3
Running club – 7.50am	YES	Wednesday mornings – all welcome
Mr Morgan after school	YES – 4.30pm finish	Wednesdays - Y5 & 6
Circuits with Mr Morgan – 7.50am	YES	Thursdays – all welcome
Tag Rugby	YES – 4.15pm finish	Thursdays - Y5 & 6
Badminton – 8am	YES	Fridays – Y3 & 4
Yoga	YES – 4pm finish	Fridays – Y1
Chess	YES – 4.15pm finish	Fridays – Y5 & 6
Premier Sport Hockey	YES – 4.30pm finish	Fridays – Y3 & 4
Hockey with Mrs Hinkins	YES – 4.15pm finish	Fridays - Y5 & 6

Nativity Service at St Bon's Church

Children's Christmas Nativity Service at St Bon's Church on 17th December, 3pm - children are invited to come dressed as their favourite nativity character.



The service will be followed by refreshments and fun activities for children and mulled wine and mince pies for adults. For more info please contact Neta Roylance-Smith nroylancesmith@outlook.com

First Holy Communion – June 2023

If your child is in year 3 and above, and you wish for them to make their 1st Holy Communion in St Bon's church, please fill out the online form available on the parish website <https://stbonsbristol.com/sacraments/>

The preparation programme will start in January (dates and times TBC) with the 1st Holy Communion taking place on 3rd June and 10th June 2023. If you have any questions about 1HC, please contact the Parish office on 0117 942 4448 or bristol.stbonaventure@cliftondiocese.com

Dyslexia and Australian Flower Bush Essence – a project

Gordon Adam has been a volunteer at St Bon's since 2013, supporting children in Year 5 with reading. Gordon is also a practising Homeopath (since 1988) and has treated many children with dyslexia (including issues with reading, writing, spelling, word recall, etc) over the years, mainly using a particular flower essence, and with generally very good results.



This particular flower essence is made from the flower Bush Fuchsia (*Epacris longiflora* – see photo) which grows in Eastern Australia. Flower essences are made by immersing the flowers (in full bloom) in spring water in a glass bowl and leaving it exposed to sunlight for a period of several hours. The energetic essence of the flower gets absorbed into the water with the help of sunlight. The water is then sieved and filtered and some brandy added as a preservative – this is called the 'stock' essence which is bottled and made available commercially. For dosage purposes, several drops of the stock essence are added to spring or filtered water along with a little brandy in a dropper bottle. The usual dose for Australian Bush Essences is seven drops twice a day.

With support from the school, Gordon will be running a project early in the New Year, where Bush Fuchsia will be made available to dyslexic children (in any year group) and their progress with the essence monitored over a period of 3 months. Some children respond very quickly to the essence (within minutes!) whilst with others, progress is slower, taking several weeks or even a few months to see the full effect. For this reason, the project will run for 3 months (from time of starting on the essence). A 30ml dropper bottle of the essence, which lasts about 3 weeks, will be supplied for £5 (to cover material costs). An update, by email, would be sent to Gordon at the completion of each bottle, and a further bottle of the essence made available (from the school office) if appropriate.

A meeting (or possibly 2 meetings at different times of day) for anyone interested in taking part in the project will be held in the school early in the New Year where more information will be offered and any questions answered – please look out for details in the first school newsletters of 2023.

For further information: Gordon Adam gordonadam@blueyonder.co.uk

Forest School



We are still in need of donations of fleece tops without hoods, hats and gloves to fit 5 year olds. If you have anything at home that you no longer need, please bring items into the school office.

Y5&6 boys' football tournament

Well done to the year 5 and 6 boys who took part in the recent tournament at St Bede's – narrowly missing out in the finals!



Sponsored silence – raising money for Young Lives vs Cancer



Children in 6WA raised an amazing £131.82 for their recent sponsored silence – well done!

Lion King DVD - refunds

If you paid for a DVD, please would you come to the office to collect your refund before the end of term 2.

Any money remaining at the end of Term 2 will be put towards the fund for future drama productions.

Reception places for September 2023



Just a reminder that we are currently running Open Days for parents who will be applying for a Reception place for September 2023. Book on to a tour with the office if you feel this would be helpful.

If you are applying on faith grounds, we will need a copy of your child's Catholic baptism certificate please. You can bring in the original to be copied in the office or email us a copy. We will provide you with a dated receipt.

The deadline for applications is 15th January 2023.

PTFA News

www.stbonsptfa.com

Facebook – St Bons Parents and Carers

Instagram - @stbonsptfa

Email – ptfa.stbons@gmail.com

▲ **St Bon's Christmas Fair 4th December, 2-5pm!**

Kick off the festive season in style! Join us for a fun filled family afternoon; games, music, snow globe bouncy castle, delicious food and drink, amazing prizes and of course a chance to visit Santa himself!



Next week please bring in all your lovely donations for the fair stalls. All week we're collecting:



1. Goodie bags
2. Teddy bears
3. Bottles for the bottle stall
4. Books
5. Christmas jumpers

Please ensure all donations are in good condition (a condition you wouldn't mind your child bringing home!) and for the bottle stall drinks which are unopened, in date and that you would drink yourself.

▲ **Hamper raffle tickets:** please keep returning your completed raffle tickets and money for a chance to win one of the amazing hampers. More tickets are available from the office.



Auction: Not going to make it?? No problem, we are excited to announce our AMAZING online auction where you can bid as much or as little as you like to win prizes including:

✍ Bristol Bears rugby top signed by the current team!



✍ Signed cricket tops by local and international players!

- ✍ Family trip to Longleat!
- ✍ Family trip to Bristol City match!
- ✍ Surf lessons at The Wave!
- ✍ Steam railway trips!
- ✍ Vouchers for top restaurants, hairdressers, beauticians and more...

You might win a bargain! Ideal for Christmas gifts and it's open to anyone. So please let your family, friends, colleagues know.

Please refer to your class reps or the previously emailed 'Christmas Fair info sheet' for detailed information on everything fair related.

- 🟡 **Stall Volunteers:** coming to the fair? Help out and have fun by signing up to your class stall!
- 🟡 **Sponsorship:** do you know a business that would be able to sponsor our fair? We are open to amounts and in return will publicise sponsors via our channels in the runup and during the fair. Email us if so!

🥁 **Ceilidh – new date Fri 10th February 2023**

Tickets available NOW online. We are excited to have fantastic live band, Jiggerty, joining us. They provide a 'caller' who will guide you through some basic but fun set dances. No experience needed. Followed by disco (let us know your requests!)

<https://www.stbonsptfa.com/events-1/ceilidh-barn-dance>

🌈 **Uniform Shop**

If anyone has any out-grown St Bon's school jumpers, cardigans or polo shirts (of any size) in **good condition** please could the PTFA have them for our pre loved uniform stock? We are running particularly low on these items and would love to be able to pass them to others in the school. Unfortunately, we can't take any trousers, shorts or skirts but would love jumpers, cardis and polo shirts if you have them. Thanks in advance, Ellie (PTFA uniform rep) ptfauniformrep@gmail.com

✍ **Join the Committee!**

We're looking for a **new secretary** to take over when our current secretary steps down later this year. Full handover will be given and Lu would be happy to support the incoming volunteer while they find their feet. If you'd like more info on the role please get in touch.

Community Food Pantry update



Thank you so much to everyone who donates items and money to the Community Food Pantry. It is hugely appreciated and the demand for the Pantry continues to increase.

The Food Pantry team have been busy making decisions on how to best use the monetary donations we receive from you. As well as the non-perishable food staples we keep stocked, we are trialling new products, like wraps and peanut butter. The uptake has been huge. We know that many of the service users have young families, and these sorts of foods are a quick, healthy and easy snack for hungry, growing children.

Please remember that although we do not accept fresh food in the Pantry, the Family Food Action charity do and are providing fresh food for those in need.

Please donate any fresh fruit and vegetables to Family Food Action in the box at the back of St Bonaventure's Church on SUNDAYS ONLY.

You can also donate food in the box outside number 90 Egerton Road on MONDAYS ONLY.

How can I help with the Community Food Pantry?

As well as cash donations, we are incredibly grateful for any food you can give. Any amount at all is helpful, even one packet, box or bottle of something! Here are the items we're most in need of at the moment:

PLEASE DONATE:

Cooking Oil
Tuna and other tinned fish
Biscuits
Pasta
Rice
Sanitary Towels
Deodorant
Shaving foam
Toothpaste
Sugar
Sweetcorn

Please DO NOT donate:

Fresh food (we can't safely store it and it will go to waste - but Family Food Action can take it)
Tinned soup (it doesn't get taken)

Where do I leave food donations?

Please put food 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.

How do I donate 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 Mgr Massey or put it in an envelope through Jenny Glester's door at 57 Egerton Road.

How do I donate my time?

If you'd like to get involved in the organisation of the Community Food Pantry, you can join our WhatsApp group by following this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Kq3UpC345FdDOPMnNwQfja>
Thank you all for your support!

COMMUNITY NEWS

One of our school families is looking to rehome their guinea pigs - they are two girls. They come with a hutch and they have to this point been living outside. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mrs Garrett victoria.garrett@bristol-schools.uk



Parent moving to Shirehampton

Hello, I wondered if any families living in Shirehampton would like to get in touch to discuss possible sharing of the school drops off and a general chat as we are thinking about moving over to the area but don't know any families there.

We would be driving through Shirehampton Road, so any families in Coombe Dingle or Sea Mills, also interested in school drop offs, please get in touch on 07738 657283. Thank you.



Brownies is about trying new things that teach girls aged seven to 10 about themselves, their community and their world.

Brownies introduces girls to a world of new opportunities, challenges and fun. Girls go along to holidays, day trips and sleepovers. They get together with their friends at regular meetings where they learn new hobbies, get creative, develop skills and have outdoor adventures.

As well as trying activities in their meetings, girls choose from interest badges related to things they want to know more about.

Spaces are currently available at 106th Brownies who meet at St Bonaventure's Parish Hall. Visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> to sign up.

JUST ROCK® Bristol is a music club for children (7-18) and adults (19+) in Redland. We offer group lessons in guitar, bass, drums and singing and the opportunity to perform regularly as part of a live band. Beginners are

very welcome!

The 90-minute, weekly sessions are held on Mondays after school in Redland Church Hall, Redland Green Road, Bristol, BS6 7HE

Timings:

Juniors (7-11s) 4.15pm-5.45pm

Seniors (11-18s) 6.00pm-7.30pm

Adults (19+) 7.45pm-9.15pm

Our end of year gig will be held in July 2023 at The Fleece, Bristol.

To book, go to www.justrock.com/clubs and submit a 'Contact us' enquiry form.