



Friday 8th December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

‘Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.’

Well done to our Reception and KS1 pupils who performed their nativity to family and friends this week. We are so proud of you all. It was great to see your personalities shine through in your performance!

We are looking forward to our KS2 carol service on Thursday 14th December 6pm in St Bons church.

Sickness- diarrhoea and vomiting

Please ensure you allow 48 hours before sending your child into school following an episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting. This is to ensure it does not spread through a class and the school staff.

Parent focus group update

I would like to thank our parent focus group for their continued support. Here is a summary of what we discussed in our most recent meeting:

- Punctuality- if you are exiting the playground after the morning prayer please do not hold the side gate open for pupils to enter onto the playground. This presents us with a safeguarding risk. Pupils arriving after the prayer must enter the school via the office reception area.
- Sickness rule- see above.
- Parking on Egerton Road- concerns shared about the parents/carers who are continuing to park across resident driveways and use the top of Egerton road as turning space. These parents/carers are continuing to ignore requests to park elsewhere.

Support group for parents/carers of pupils with SEND

Please note the change of date for our term 3 meeting. The meeting will now take place on Monday 15th January 9.00-10.15. We will be joined remotely by SENCAT who will be providing input on how to support children with dyslexia. I would like to encourage as many parents/carers as possible to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be provided.

Best,
Sarah Ballantine
Head teacher

Catholic Life Of Our School

The school has been alive with the spirit of Advent this week, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The reflection areas in the classrooms have been decorated with purple cloths, Advent wreaths, and nativity scenes. The children have been learning about the meaning of Advent and how to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Key Stage 1 nativities

This week Key Stage 1 performed their nativities for the school and for their families. With lively singing, spirited dancing, and engaging narration, they brought the story of the first Christmas to life, transporting us back in time to the humble manger in Bethlehem. They were a joy to watch, and their enthusiasm for their roles was infectious.

Advent Preparations and Prayer

Alongside the festive decorations and performances, we have been finding out more about the meaning of Advent and the significance of preparing for the coming of Jesus. Our prayer and liturgy this week have focused on how we can prepare ourselves spiritually and practically, reflecting on the importance of treating others with kindness and compassion, letting our lights shine and engaging in prayer.

CAFOD Big Assembly and Global Awareness

In our Key Stage 2 assembly, we embraced the CAFOD Big Assembly, raising awareness of the challenging lives of some of our global neighbors who are affected by climate change and conflict. The children reflected on the importance of extending our compassion and prayers beyond our immediate communities.

Advent Pledges and Acts of Hope

Inspired by the CAFOD Big Assembly, each Key Stage 2 class has taken on the challenge of creating an Advent pledge and a commitment to make a positive impact during this special season. Their pledges include various acts of kindness, acts of faith, and environmental consciousness, demonstrating their willingness to embrace the spirit of Advent and make a difference in the world.

Mark's Gospel and the Message of Hope

Our Key Stage 1 Celebration of the Word this week centred on the opening verses of Mark's Gospel. We talked about the message of hope conveyed by John the Baptist. The children are writing their own messages of hope for the world.



Bristol Old Vic's Nativity Performance

This morning Bristol Old Vic shared a performance of the nativity with the whole school. Their portrayal of the story brought the Christmas narrative to life, transporting us to the heart of the biblical events.

We are incredibly proud of our children for wholeheartedly embracing the Christmas spirit this week. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and genuine enthusiasm for the season have been heart warming to witness. From their nativity performances to their heartfelt prayers and pledges, they have embodied the true essence of Advent and reminded us of the profound meaning of Christmas.



11th December (MENU week 1)

- Monday 11th- Dodgeball event at St Bede's
- Tuesday 12th- Christmas lunch- Christmas jumper day.
- Thursday 14th – Key stage 2 Carol Concert 6:00 in the church.
- Friday 15th – Nasal flu vaccines.
 - Last Day of term.

UP COMING DATES:

- Tuesday 2nd January- Inset day- Children do not attend school.
- Wednesday 3rd January- Children return to school.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Reception places for September 2024



Just a reminder that applications for Reception places for September 2024 are now open, We still have spaces on our open days, book on to a tour with the office if you feel this would be helpful.

The deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.

Iron on St Bonaventures logo badges



We now have iron on logos to sell to parents, they are fantastic quality and hope it makes uniform much more affordable for parents. The badges are £1.30 each and can be ironed on to cardigans, sweatshirt, polo shirts and t-shirts.

Payment can be made via School Gateway and will be payable from Monday.

Once ordered you can pick up the following week from the office during school hours.

Please see the attachment from this email for application instructions.

Bike Shed

Our site manager has requested that parents/pupils please collect any bikes/scooters by the last day of term.

Any left in the bike shed over the Christmas holidays will be disposed of.

This is in the aim to tidy the area which has become over crowded as he suspects there are some left that are broken or left behind by old pupils.



Running Club

Running/walking club

Do you want to get fit and have fun at the same time!
Join us on Wednesday mornings at 7.50am.
Children and adults are welcome.



English as an Additional Language Coffee Mornings



If English is not your first language, please come along, share your views, meet other parents, be a part of your child's learning and relax at our coffee mornings from 9 – 10am on Wednesdays in the School – come to the office.

The group is run by Mrs Cela – if you would like more information, please email her at esmeralda.cela@bristol-schools.uk

**A special invitation is extended to parents/carers of children who have just joined us.
If you would like more information about the group – please email Mrs Cela.**

First Holy Communion 2024

The application process for the First Holy Communion programme is now open. If your child is in year 3 or above, and you wish to enrol him/her for the preparation programme starting in January, please complete an online [application form](#).

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 11th May 2024.
For more details, please contact the parish office on 0117 942 4448 or visit <https://stbonsbristol.com/sacraments/>.



The Bristol Standard

We are pleased to share that Kidzone have been awarded
The Bristol Standard Quality Improvement for Play Provision Certificate.

The Bristol Standard is a self-evaluation framework that is used by Play Workers to enable them to take part in reflective discussions around ten dimensions of quality to identify their current strengths and targets for improvement.

The Bristol Standard is recognised nationally and internationally.

Some of the comments Kidzone received from the validation panel included:

'We really get a sense that children are at the heart of what you do', 'You have a clear and well thought out structure and organisational procedures which support and value staff, children and their families'.

We as a Kidzone team are very proud to have achieved this, we look forward to sharing our portfolio with you and continuing on this exciting journey of improvement ensuring we are always offering our best.

Bookings for term 3 Afterschool club is now open.

You are able to book for the whole of term 3 if a regular slot is required or weekly.

Please note that you must book 24 hours in advance to allow for staffing to be arranged, if you try to book on the day it may not be possible. Likewise, if a child has not been booked in you will be asked to collect your child as it is highly likely there will not be space.

If you have any questions regarding afterschool club please contact them directly on:

kidzonestbons@bristol-school.uk or call 07760 181381



Clubs and sports at St Bon's



Club...	Is it running...	Day and year group...
Netball	YES YES	3:15 Mondays – Y3 & 4 3:15 Tuesdays - Y5 & 6
Drama	Yes (Year 6)	Thursdays- Year 6- 3:15 – 4:15 in hall
Circuits	NO	No Circuits until 2 nd week of term 3
Running club	YES	Wednesdays – 7.45am – all welcome – meet outside foyer
Football	NO	No football until 2 nd week of term 3
Tag Rugby	Yes	Thursday Y5 & Y6 8:00
Chess Lunch break	NO	Fridays -Y5 & Y6 12:15 fortnightly
Hockey with Mrs Hinkins	NO	
Gymnastics	YES	Tuesdays- 3:15- Year 3
Dodge ball	YES	Fridays – Y3 &4- 8:00 in hall
Art/Drawing- lunch time	YES	Tuesday lunch - KS2 – 12:15 In 4H
Debating Club- lunch time	YES	Wednesday lunch – Y5 & Y6 12:15-In 3B/3J
Well-Being Singing- lunch time	YES	Tuesday lunch – whole school - 12:15 in 1P
Choir – Lunch time	KS1 YES KS2 YES	Mondays – KS1 12:15 in 2TW Thursdays – KS2 –12:15 in 2TW
Yoga	YES	Friday Y1 – paid class – https://www.emflow.co.uk/book.html

Coaching with Sophie

If you would like to book onto our clubs please do so via our website - www.cwsophie.co.uk the bookings are now live.

Tennis Coaching at Kings Tennis Club

Kings Tennis club run a full program of coaching for all ages and abilities!

They have a strong link with St BONS and on a Wednesday offer a pick up from school and tennis from 3.30 - 4.30PM.

They do have limited spaces and waiting lists for some year groups, but right now have spaces in year 5/6

If you have any questions/interest please e-mail Elly ellytennis.Kings@hotmail.com

Elly Shearman Tennis Coaching Bristol based at Kings Tennis Club



[PTFA News](#)

www.stbonsptfa.com

Email – contact@stbonsptfa.com

Uniform – ptfauniformrep@gmail.com

Facebook – St Bons Parents and Carers

Instagram - @stbonsptfa

A massive thank you to everyone

The PTFA would like to thank each and every person who supported the fair last week in whatever way they could. We know how valuable your time and resources are and we are so grateful for your help. It was a wonderful afternoon full of fun, laughter and of course fundraising. We raised an incredible **£6617.27** to support our school in the incredible job they do.

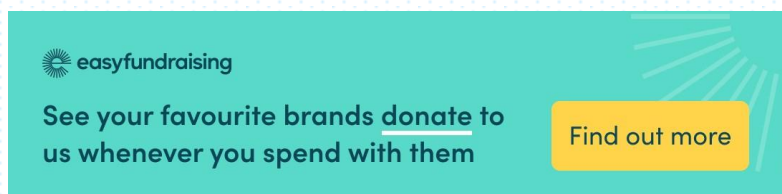
Silent Auction


If you had the successful highest bid in the silent auction you should have received a payment link for your item. Thank you to those who have already paid. We would be very grateful if any outstanding payments could be made as soon as possible.

Be the next chair/co-chair

If you have been inspired by the Christmas Fair please step forward to be the next chair/co-chair of the PTFA. We can run for a short period without someone in position but to meet our responsibilities as a charity the PTFA cannot keep going with the position unfilled. If you've been thinking about it please do let us know. No prior experience necessary just some enthusiasm and a desire to help the school provide our children with an amazing experience now and in the future. You'll have a full handover with lots of support from the outgoing chairs and the rest of the committee who are a really friendly bunch.

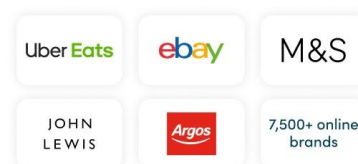
Happy Christmas Everyone!



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[Find out more](#)



Uber Eats ebay M&S

JOHN LEWIS Argos 7,500+ online brands



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY.

We really appreciate the support we get from the local community and parishioners: I noted last week that Tesco in Winterbourne had donated a significant amount of food for us to add to the shelves. This week, an anonymous giver left a really large donation of food by the Presbytery door - including some very festive mulled wine! Thank you so much, whoever you are, for your generosity.

We rely on donations to keep the pantry stocked, and we find that cold weather tends to increase the speed at which food and toiletries are taken by Pantry users.

Anything you can give will be massively appreciated, but we particularly need the following things at the moment:

Please donate:

Tinned fruit
Tuna
Other tinned fish
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned sweetcorn
Sanitary towels
Deodorant

Please DO NOT donate:

Fresh food (we can't safely store it and it will go to waste)

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.

Community News

St Bonaventures Church Nativity

Hello all!

Yes it's arrived again.....Nativity time!!!!

We will be having this year's children's nativity service on Saturday December 16th at 3pm.

Followed by coffee and minced pies in the Prestbury. Children are invited to dress up as their chosen nativity characters and take part in the service if they wish.

If your child would like to be one of our amazing readers please contact Neta by email nroylancesmith@outlook.com

We are also needing adults to be main characters too!!!!

Many thanks as always

2 baby guinea-pigs looking for their new home. 4 weeks old, been well handled and used to kids.
Please contact Ali for more info - 07962 263 243



St Bon's Brownies

St Bon's Brownies meet on a Monday evening in the Parish Hall from 6.30 - 8pm and is open to girls aged 7- 10. Through regular meetings, special events, day trips and sleepovers, Brownies learn new hobbies, play games, complete challenges and get adventurous outdoors. Girls also extend their knowledge and abilities by working towards badges covering many different hobbies and activities from Baking or Inventing to Painting or Performing. There will be some spaces for new Brownies to start after Christmas so if your daughter would like to join Brownies, please email stbonsbrownies@gmail.com giving her name, date of birth and a contact number.



St. Bon's Hygiene Bank provides families of children at the school with bags of hygiene products every half term. We have an amazing group of parents who regularly donate supplies of things like toothpaste, shampoo and washing up liquid to the bank, but it would be great to have some new people in the group. If you think this is something you would like to help with, please scan the QR code below to join the St. Bon's Hygiene Bank WhatsApp group:



We would also love to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering to help run the hygiene bank. Call or message Nicola on 07947 690569 or Katie on 07792 420999 to find out more.