



# NEWSLETTER

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**Friday 28th November 2025**

## **Head Teacher's message**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter. We have much to bring you up to speed on this month.

## **RE and school spirituality**

### School Section 48 Inspection:

As a faith based and Catholic school we are routinely inspected for our provision around RE, the school's culture and the way we support children to reflect and engage in times of worship. This, like an OFSTED review, is also a statutory inspection that grades the school and in the future will form part of other statutory reviews. As you may already know we had an inspection two weeks ago and I am pleased to feedback that our final report has just been published and is attached to this newsletter as a separate document.

As you will see, our school has been graded as Good. Within this outcome there are also three separate gradings which feed into our final grade. For Catholic life and mission we were graded as Outstanding; for Religious Education we were graded as Good and for Collective Worship we were also graded as Good. Of the three gradings the one we are most proud of is Catholic Life and Mission as this reflects what it is to be part of our school and what we aim to give each child. This gift is built around the school's mission to be caring and compassionate and to develop ourselves as people who promote the school's mission and values.

Your children were an integral part of this inspection and it is a testament to them that the school was assessed so highly. To this end, the governors and I would like to thank staff, parents and children who have supported our school's journey. As always we are proud of the work you all do and also of our achievements. Thank you.

### School worship:

This term, our values focus is Peace. Over the last few weeks our work has encouraged the children to think of ways they can find peace in the world and also be part of the peace making process.

### School Chaplaincy:

The Clifton Diocese annual Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass was held in Clifton Cathedral last Thursday. The children from our school who attended this were our school prayer leaders. The mass was led by Bishop Bosco and each child received a Chaplains badge and certificate. Our school stewards did not attend this mass but were presented with a School Chaplains badge today in recognition for the work they are committing to do in the school.

## **Elena's last day and future arrangements around this:**

We are really sorry to report that Elena, the school's piano teacher, will no longer be providing her piano lessons in the school. The reason for this is that she is seeking new challenges in life for which we wish her every success. Elena has been part of the school family for many years and has allowed many of our children to grow musically. Her contribution to the life of the school will be very much missed. Thank you Elena for all that you have given the school and for the musical lives you have changed.

With respect to Elena's lessons, I am however also pleased to say that these will not cease as Mrs Cambray Smith has agreed to take on all Elena's pupils.

### Cross Country:

Our KS2 team took part in a multi- school cross country event last Thursday and braved bitterly cold conditions. Despite the weather, every child rose to the challenge with real determination and resilience. They pushed themselves beyond what they believed they could achieve, showed impressive endurance and supported one another all the way to the finish line! We couldn't be prouder of the way they represented the school. To round off the afternoon, the children enjoyed some well earned hot chocolate and biscuits.



Thank you to all the families for your continued support and to Mrs Cockram for her help at this event.



### Bristol Fieldwork:

We had a wonderful day in Bristol yesterday and all the staff were very proud of the children, how they behaved and adapted to a different environment and how they met the challenges of the day. As you will know, the reason we undertook this trip was to enable the children to experience Isambard Kingdom-Brunel's Great Western Railway, but also experience and survey other modes of transport in Bristol. This visit included a short ferry trip and surveys of transport in two areas of the city along with interviews with members of the public about how they choose to travel.

The field trip could not have been possible without your support and I would like to thank you for ensuring the children were dropped off and picked up from Chippenham. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers who enabled this trip to go ahead. I very much value your gift of time and dedication to the school.



### Headteacher recruitment:

In case you have missed some governor communication, Mrs Carpenter and I can confirm that the governors were successful in recruiting a new head teacher. Nick Morrell will be joining us after the February break, but he will be seen in school before that and will be contacting parents in the new year to introduce himself. He is currently deputy headteacher at Beaudesert Park School in Minchinhampton and prior to that he held the same role at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. He is a trustee of Clifton Diocese where he sits on the Schools and Colleges Committee.

Unfortunately Mr Morell is unable to take up post until the start of Term 4 (after February half term) so Mrs Carpenter and I will continue as headteachers until that time. During this period we will be working with Mr Morell and the governors to continue to improve the school and also ensure a smooth transition in our working.





## PFA Winter Warmer

We are excited to share with you details of the PFA Winter Warmer Christmas event taking place at school on Friday 12th December from 6-8.30pm.

Today we are sending home with the children a letter detailing everything you need to know about this festive celebration, along with books of raffle tickets for each family. Please support in any way you can.

Tickets are available on Parentpay - there is one item for adult tickets and another for children.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you at this special festive evening.

## School Photo Proofs

Also coming home with your child today is the proof of their school photos along with details of how to order. The deadline for ordering in time for free delivery to school before Christmas is Weds 10th December.



## PANTO TIME!

We are delighted to announce that our traditional Christmas Panto this year will be on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** when Rainbow Theatre Productions will be entertaining us with their performance of Sleeping Beauty. This is always a very popular event with the children and we would like to welcome parents and younger siblings to join us.

We are hugely grateful to the school PFA for subsidising the production and are asking for a donation of £2 per child, sibling and parent towards this fun, extra-curricular Christmas activity. Two items have been set up on Parentpay, one for each child, and an additional item for parents and siblings where more than one ticket can be selected. Please note that capacity for parents and siblings is limited to 30 so places will be on a first come, first served basis.

## This week's Wednesday Word is ADVENT

"Advent is like a springtime, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

The Wednesday Word is available on our website: <https://www.st-josephs-malmsbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>



## Attendance November 2025

**St Teresa 96.2%**

**St Aldhelm 96.4%**

**St Carlo 93.7%**

**WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER**