

# IN TOUCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This edition of In Touch really brings it home to us that we are in the season of Advent, preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. You will see below that our students have taken part in the prestigious 'Carols in the Square' event in Battersea High Street, as well as reflecting daily on the mystery of the incarnation as we light the Advent Candle.

This week we also highlight the central role of our Salesian ethos and the support that our Chaplaincy Team, both staff and students, bring to the school community through prayer, friendship and a shared sense of Ruah.

With the Christmas break fast-approaching I would urge all parents to note Tuesday 17 December in their diaries and join us to celebrate a service of readings and carols in the Sacred Heart Parish Church.



We enjoyed joining Riverside Radio and our neighbours for Carols in the Square.

DECEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**DATES**

- 12 December** • Year 11 parents' evening
- 17 December** • Christmas Concert  
(6:00pm in Sacred Heart Parish Church)
- 20 December** • End of Term

[sjbc\\_battersea](https://www.sjbc-battersea.org)

[St John Bosco College](https://www.stjohnbosco.org)

[@SJBC\\_London](https://twitter.com/SJBC_London)

[@SJBCWandsworth](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)





# BOSCO CHAPLAINCY LUNCH CLUB

‘A really interesting, warm, friendly space.’ This is one comment from a student who comes regularly to our brilliant new, Bosco Chaplaincy space. Over this first term we have managed to acquire many games which give the students who come in great numbers, a chance to unwind, interact and enjoy some worthwhile social space. I am amazed that today’s young people can happily still enjoy a variety of games including Ludo, Uno, Snakes and Ladders, Draughts as well as Frustration with Chess being very popular too. The noise as rules are sorted out and winners decided must reach Battersea Power Station at least! As for our jigsaw hunters in Y10 they have already completed an impossible jigsaw and are well into finding all the pieces for their next 1000 masterpiece!



The room has also been used regularly on Wednesdays by a marvellous Prayer Group, organised and led by Taleigha, a Y11 student.



About 12-18 students come weekly to enjoy a variety of ways to strengthen their faith, support each other spiritually and look more personally at how to live out their beliefs in a difficult climate for young believers today.





# BOSCO CHAPLAINCY LUNCH CLUB

The space has proved popular with students who wish to lead our various School Prayers in the morning and after break. There has been a growing interest in sharing the inspiring prayers prepared by Sr. Neethu, so much so that we now have quite a rota of students wanting to participate.



During the recent exams it has been a good place for groups to revise together, helping each other find ways to talk through the stress as well as sharing different processes for remembering the information needed for various subjects. I am sure teachers would be amazed at the seriousness of the revision that took place. The room also gives students a space where those who forgot to complete homework can do so easily!

I am sure Don Bosco looks down smilingly, enjoying the noisy, fun atmosphere and blesses us with the same words he used for the Oratory boys in Valdocco, all those years ago: 'Enjoy yourself as much as you can-just be sure to try to be good to the same extent!'  
Sr. Pat FMA



# PARENT GOVERNOR FACT SHEET

## WHAT DOES THE GOVERNING BODY DO?

Governing Bodies play a vital supporting and strategic role in the effective planning and decision making of the school. They are responsible for different aspects of the school such as Finances, Premises, Staffing and Curriculum.



## WHO CAN BE A PARENT GOVERNOR?

Any person who has responsibility for a child on roll at the school.



## HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

The full governing body meets once a term. Meetings take approximately two hours. Governors also attend a committee meeting once a term and at least one monitoring visit during the school day.

## TRAINING FOR NEW GOVERNORS

New governors receive induction training explaining the role and responsibilities of governors. There is a designated helpline, website, newsletter and training courses which keeps you informed. Your fellow governors will also support you in your new role.

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

Parent governors do not need formal qualifications and need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved.

## NOMINATION PROCESS

If you would like to be nominated as a Parent Governor please contact the school for a nomination form.

**JOIN OUR GOVERNING BODY**

If you want to ask any questions about this opportunity, please contact Jane Hargrave, Chair of Governors  
[ChairofGovernors@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:ChairofGovernors@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk)







You are invited to our

*Christmas*

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS  
AND CAROLS

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
6.00 – 7.30pm

Sacred Heart Church  
Trott Street, Battersea, SW11 3DS





# SJBC Library Christmas Reading Recommendations

Whether you're looking for festive cheer, magical adventures, or a cosy winter read, this list has something for everyone!

## For Year 7-8

### "The Christmasaurus" by Tom Fletcher

A heart-warming and humorous story about a young boy, a magical dinosaur, and a wild Christmas Eve adventure.

### "A Boy Called Christmas" by Matt Haig

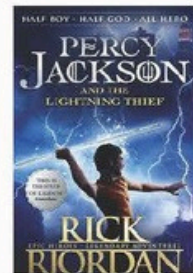
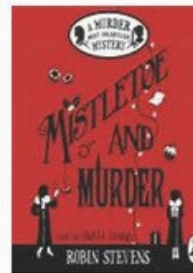
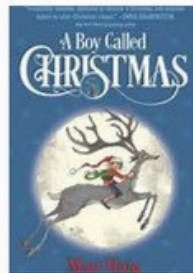
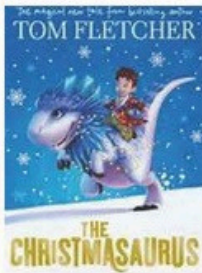
Discover the true story of Father Christmas in this enchanting, feel-good tale. Perfect for fans of magical adventures.

### "Murder Most Unladylike: Mistletoe and Murder" by Robin Stevens

A festive-themed mystery that will keep you guessing till the end. It's the perfect holiday read for young detectives!

### "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan

While not Christmas-themed, this adventurous series is a great holiday read for anyone who loves mythology and fast-paced action.



## For Years 9-10

### "Let It Snow" by John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle

A collection of interconnected holiday romances filled with warmth and humour, set in a small town during a Christmas Eve snowstorm.

### "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey from miserly misanthrope to a man filled with Christmas spirit. A timeless story of redemption.

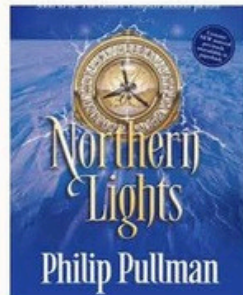
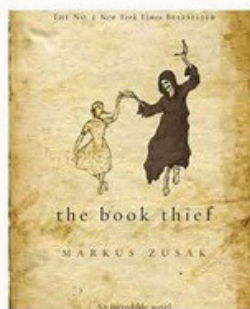


### "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

Set in Nazi Germany, this poignant story is narrated by Death and follows a young girl who finds solace in stealing books. A moving read that is perfect for curling up with on a winter's night.

### "Northern Lights" (His Dark Materials) by Philip Pullman

Embark on an epic, magical adventure that begins in a snow-covered, parallel world. This series is a gripping read for the holidays.



## For Years 11-13

### "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern

A beautifully written, magical tale set in a mysterious circus that arrives without warning. It's a perfect, immersive read for the winter break.

### "One Day in December" by Josie Silver

A heartwarming and emotional love story about fate, missed opportunities, and the magic of the holiday season.

### "The Snow Child" by Eowyn Ivey

A beautifully crafted novel set in 1920s Alaska, blending magical realism with a touching story of love and loss. Ideal for older students looking for something unique.

### "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" by Arthur Conan Doyle

A classic short story featuring a Christmas mystery. Perfect for fans of detective fiction and a great introduction to Sherlock Holmes.

### "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig

A thought-provoking and uplifting novel about life choices, regrets, and second chances. It's a great read for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead.

