



“We put Christ at the Centre of our Lives.”



**Newsletter Date:
Friday 4th March 2022**

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Ukraine

For all of us, the ongoing situation in Ukraine is both worrying and deeply upsetting. As part of our Lenten Promise, Christians are asked to pray, fast and be charitable: the conflict in Ukraine certainly needs our prayers and charity at this time. As a school, we want to do all that we can to support those affected by the crisis.



I am delighted that we were able to support Mansfield’s Polish School, who’d organised a collection that leaves for the Ukraine this weekend. Thank you to the many of you who were able to donate; the response has been truly phenomenal.

CAFOD have also launched their [Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#), which we will be supporting as a school. If you would like to make a donation, please send this to school from next week; we will then ensure all funds are sent to CAFOD, who will use your donations to provide food, water, healthcare, shelter and clothing to those affected.

During this difficult time, please also be assured that staff are talking to children about the situation and offering reassurance as well as sharing age-appropriate facts. We are also taking great comfort from gathering together in assemblies and through class liturgies to offer thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters affected by this crisis — and we will continue to do so. Each class has a copy of a sunflower picture and a special prayer on their liturgy tables, which children are invited to pray whenever they wish.

We also invite you to spend time in our Spiritual Garden on the school field, which has been decorated by the children with Ukrainian flags and prayers. You are warmly invited to use this quiet space at any time, either at the beginning or end of the school day.

Attendance last week: 97.1%	
FS1am	90.6%
FS1pm	50.0%
FS1 30hrs	92.5%
FS2KW	95.0%
FS2TG	96.8%
Y1RB	95.3%
Y1CG	98.0%
Y2DK	95.9%
Y2RT	98.1%
Y3HA	98.4%
Y3AN	95.5%
Y4NH	96.1%
Y4 SM	97.1%
Y5SC	99.3%
Y5VD	98.1%
Y6GM	97.7%
Y6NS	97.6%

What do I tell my child about events in Ukraine?

Talking to young people about conflict is never easy. However, it’s advised that you talk openly with your child, particularly as they have the world at their finger tips online and may come across fake news and misinformation.

Please don’t feel that you have to turn off the TV or the radio; instead, engage them in conversation and ask what they know about what’s happening. To help with this, you might find it useful to use news sources that are curated for children, for example, the newspaper First News, which we subscribed to. Today’s First News edition is a special Ukraine publication designed to help parents explain what’s happening in a non-sensationalised and unbiased way (see Class Dojo for details of how to access this). Sky News also has it’s own children’s news show, <https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/99387495-8564-4bce-8e5f-9457bb3f931a/fyi> , and BBC [Newsround](#) presents the news in a way that is palatable for young people. Please also feel free to talk to any of us.



Parents' Evening

As confirmed in last week's Newsletter, Parents' Evening will take place **week beginning Monday 14th March**. Please check your child's Class Dojo page where you will find the usual request to complete a message to your child's teacher with your preferred date and time of appointment. Once returned to us, your child's class teacher will collate this information and provide you with an appointment time.



I strongly urge that you make the most of this opportunity and arrange to meet your child's teacher as this will provide you with a clear overview of your child's engagement, attitude, achievements, friendships and suggestions of how you can support them at home. Working in partnership is vital to ensuring your child reaches their full potential.

Parents' Evening will be conducted in the same way it was for the Advent Term, using your child's MS Teams account. A reminder of how to use MS Teams will be shared next week.

Covid Update

The Prime Minister confirmed that domestic legal restrictions would end on 24 February as we are asked to begin to treat Covid like other infectious diseases. New guidance on Living with Covid is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19> .

Until 1st April 2022, the Government still advises people who test positive to stay at home. **Adults and children who test positive should stay at home** and avoid contact with other people **for at least five full days** and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. Thereafter they can return to work, school and normal everyday life.

The Government will provide further Covid guidance for advice after 1st April within the next few weeks.

Word of the Week

The Word of the Week for next week is **Prayer**, which will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.



Year Group Mass

Year 5 will celebrate Mass next week in church. I am delighted to confirm that **we are now able to welcome parents and parishioners to join us**. Mass will begin at 9.30am.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

[Prayer taken from CAFOD]