



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



**Newsletter Date:
Friday 9th September, 2022**

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Her Majesty, The Queen

Following the very sad news yesterday of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we gathered as a whole school community this morning to offer our prayers, pay our respects and offer our heartfelt thanks for all she has done. Across the school, children have taken time to learn a little more about the Queen and the significance of her life and death. We have also invited children to thank God for her life and service in the form of prayer, poetry or art. *Eternal rest grant unto Her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon Her. May She rest in peace. Amen.*

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday and managed to spend some quality time with your loved ones. May I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and new starters; I know you'll soon discover just how kind, generous and supportive our school community is, and we all look forward to working closely with you all during your time in our school. May I also formally welcome our new staff members — Miss Bannister, our Sports TA, who will work across all classes supporting PE lessons. Miss Bannister will also organise and lead games and activities during lunchtimes and in after school clubs. I'd also like to welcome Miss Young, our new Year 2 teacher, and Mr Bovell as our new Year 6 teacher. Thank you for already making them feel so welcome. From speaking to staff and visiting each classroom since returning, there's a real sense of calm and purpose around school, which is just wonderful to see. Long may this continue!



The summer has been fully of activity in school with various building projects. It's been great to see the improvements made to our Foundation Stage outdoors; there's certainly been lots of excited faces this week! The older children have thoroughly enjoyed using the gym equipment too that has been installed in the Key Stage 2 playground and our toilets in the Year 1/2 area and Year 5/6 area of school have been completely refurbished. Thanks to the School Council for planning and designing these projects. ***In the interests of safety, we please ask the children DO NOT use any of the playground equipment at the start and end of the school day.***

Goodbye Mrs Mulcrone

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Mulcrone, who has worked at St. Philip's for nearly 10 years. In this time, I know that she has had such a positive impact on so many children's lives. May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Mulcrone for her hard work and dedication; I'm sure you'll join your well-wishes with mine for every happiness in life's next adventures. Thank you, Mrs Mulcrone.



**Attendance this week:
94.1%**

FS1am	69.2%
FS1pm	68.8%
FS1 30hrs	65.8%
FS2KW	94.0%
FS2TG	97.6%
Y1RB	98.5%
Y1CG	97.7%
Y2IY	97.3%
Y2RT	97.8%
Y3GM/ZI	92.5%
Y3AN	93.1%
Y4NH	99.3%
Y4DK	95.8%
Y5SC	89.7%
Y5VD	91.8%
Y6HA	95.8%
Y6LB/NS	96.9%

Attendance

Overall attendance for the last academic year was 95.78%, which is slightly below our Trust target of 97%. This year, we ask for your continued support as we work in partnership to ensure that school attendance is high. Please be reminded that the Department for Education states that:

- Parents and carers have a duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school, where that child is a registered pupil at school and of a compulsory school age;
- If your child is unwell or unable to attend school for whatever reason, you must notify school;
- Schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up all absences;
- Schools may issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the local authority's guidelines.

As stated in our [Pupil Attendance Policy](#), leave of absence which has not been approved will be unauthorised and may lead to a referral being made to the Local Authority for action. For schools within Nottinghamshire County Council, a Penalty Notice will be requested if an unauthorised holiday is taken in excess of 3 days/6 sessions (over a 6 week rolling period).

Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child attends all possible sessions.

School Uniform

It's wonderful to see that the children have returned to school looking smart in their school uniform. It is our expectation that all children will wear their full school uniform everyday except on PE days for children in FS and KS1. May I remind you that this includes black shoes and not trainers. Clear guidance of our uniform can be found [here](#). Children can continue to wear their summer uniform until October Half Term.

Girls: Summer Uniform:

Blue and white checked dress
Short sleeve blouse and school tie
Pale blue polo shirt
Grey skirt
Grey cardigan
White socks
Sensible shoes/sandals *not* trainers

Boys: Summer Uniform

Short sleeve shirt and school tie
pale blue polo shirt
Grey shorts or trousers
Grey jumper
Black or grey socks
Sensible shoes *not* trainers

Please also note that for children with long hair, this must always be tied back.

The uniform for PE is: Plain black shorts, plain white t-shirt, black plimsolls. Older pupils may require tracksuits and football boots or trainers for outdoor games.

Word of the Week

Next week our Word of the Week is **Belonging** which will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.

Holy Mass

Our first celebration of Holy Mass will be on Tuesday 23rd September at 9.30am. We will celebrate this as a whole school community to mark the beginning of the new academic year. All are welcome to join us.

School Singing Programme

New for this year, we have signed up to benefit from the Diocese of Nottingham Singing Programme, which aims to enhance musical education in Catholic schools across the Diocese. Our Year 3 and Year 4 children will receive weekly 30 minute sessions, delivered by experienced and trained professionals, which help children to interact with their faith through music. This programme is in addition to the children's Music Curriculum.

In addition to this Programme, the Cathedral are launching the **Mansfield Children's Choir**, which is an exciting opportunity for children in Mansfield to become singers of the future. The session will run each Wednesday from **4:30pm — 5:45pm** at **St. Philip's Church**; the first rehearsal is next week, on **Wednesday 14th September**. The Choir is open to all children aged 7 to 13 from our school. If you'd like your child to attend, please drop them off at St. Philip's Church next Wednesday. To find out more, visit the [Cathedral Music website](#).



Curriculum Matters: Class Newsletters

You will receive this term's Class Newsletter, Curriculum Matters, from your child's teacher today. This document outlines the term's main areas of learning and all essential information to enable you to support your child's learning at home. I hope you find the information useful.



Start and End Times

Please be reminded that the school day is now as follows:

Class	Start of the Day	End of the Day
FS1am	08:45	11:45
FS1pm	12:30	15:30
FS2 — Y6	Gates open: 08:35 Doors open: 08:40 Lessons Begin: 08:55	Gates open: 15:20 Lessons End: 15:30

Please arrive as closely to 8:40am as possible so your child is present during Registration. Further to this, adults are using the first 15 minutes of the day as Genius Time where children are able to read, respond to their teacher's marking, or work with an adult on a 1:1 or small group basis to address any misconceptions with work from the previous day. Children who arrive at 8.55am are missing out on this opportunity.