



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



**Newsletter Date:  
Friday 15th September, 2023**

# St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

## 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 — Mrs Steele, our new Year 1 teacher and Mr Foulkes as our new Year 4 teacher. We also welcome Mr Martin our new Sports Coach and Mr Scott, our Sports TA, who will work across all classes supporting PE lessons and delivering after school clubs. Miss Millington has now commenced her Maternity Leave so we welcome Miss Wright who joins us as Attendance Officer. Thank you for already making our new staff members feel so welcome. From speaking to teachers 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!



Over the summer, we've had contractors in school who have completely refurbished the Year 3/4 toilets. Huge thanks to the School Council for planning and designing this project.

## School Uniform

Many thanks to nearly all parents who've ensured their children has returned to school fully adhering to the new School Uniform & Presentation Policy. The children look incredibly smart which has been commented on by staff, parents and pupils alike.

A small number of children appear not to be wearing the correct uniform yet. Please note that next week we will make contact with these families to discuss this further. As a reminder, a copy of our School Uniform & Presentation Policy can be found on our [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. If there are any aspects of learning you think you'd be able to support teachers with, please do let us know.



	Attendance this week: 96.3%
FS2KW	95.7%
FS2NM	90.7%
Y1LD	95.0%
Y1JS	97.3%
Y2JY	99.7%
Y2RT	100%
Y3RB	95.7%
Y3AN	95%
Y4BF	94.5%
Y4DK	96.6%
Y5SC	98.8%
Y5VD	95.6%
Y6LB	96.7%
Y6HG	96.3%

## Nut Free School

Since the beginning of this term, new pupils with severe nut allergies have joined our school. In response to this, we are now completely nut free due to these children's allergy being life threatening. The children suffer an allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and by breathing nut dust in the air. It really is that serious. Therefore, we are asking for all members of our school community to help minimise the risk to these children by:



- 1) Avoiding giving your child/children nuts or products that contain nuts in packed lunches.
- 2) Avoiding giving your child/children nuts or nut products including cereal bars that contain nuts for break-times.
- 3) Avoiding items that contains nuts when supplying us with cakes, treats etc for birthday celebrations, sales or events.

Please note that where a member of staff notices a pupil eating a nut product, it will be removed politely and the member of staff will explain why this has been done. A message/call will then be made to the parent to explain why this has happened so they are fully informed and to remind them of the nut-free policy.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to protect these children.

## Attendance

Overall attendance for the last academic year was 94.1%, which is 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).

## Word of the Week

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



## Liturgy of the Word/Mass

As you may be aware, Fr. Shalbin has left the Parish to take up a new role in Diocese of Northampton. The Bishop does not intend to replace Fr. Shalbin which means the Parish is now being served by two not three priests. Cannon John remains committed to celebrating Mass with our school children but unfortunately, this will no longer be each week. This year, we will celebrate Mass for two in every three weeks; the other week will be a teacher-led Liturgy of the Word. Our first Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated with Year 6 in church on Tuesday 26th September at 9.30am. You're most welcome to join us.

## Mansfield Children's Choir

Due to the success of the Mansfield Children's Choir last year, the Cathedral Music Service have confirmed they will run the programme again this year. For those of you interested, this is an exciting opportunity for children in Mansfield to become singers of the future. The sessions will run each Wednesday from **4:30pm — 5:45pm** in **St. Philip's Church Hall**; the first rehearsal is next week, on **Wednesday 14th September**. The Choir is open to all children aged 7 to 13 from all across our Parish. 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](#).

## 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.

## Key Dates

See below for this term's Key Dates. We strongly advise that you check Class Dojo regularly to see notifications of other events, including specific year group activities and Class Charity Events.

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who's Involved?
Thursday 21 Sept	All Day	World Peace Day	In School	Chaplaincy Team
Sunday 24 Sept	2.30pm—4pm	Picnic in the Park	School Field	Parish Event
Wednesday 27 Sept	3.00pm—3.30pm	Phonics Information Workshop	School Hall	Reception class Parents
27—29 Sept		Residential Visit	The Mill	Year 3
Friday 29 Sept	2:50pm	Virtues Assembly	School Hall	Whole School
Wednesday 4 Oct	3.00pm—3.30pm	Phonics Information Workshop	School Hall	Year 1 Parents
Friday 6 Oct	All Day	Flu Vaccination Programme	Medical Room	Children with parental permission
Tuesday 17 Oct	3.45pm—6pm	Parents' Evening	School Hall	Whole School
Thursday 19 Oct	3.45pm—6pm	Parents' Evening	School Hall	Whole School