



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

**Newsletter Date:**  
**Friday 24th November, 2023**

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

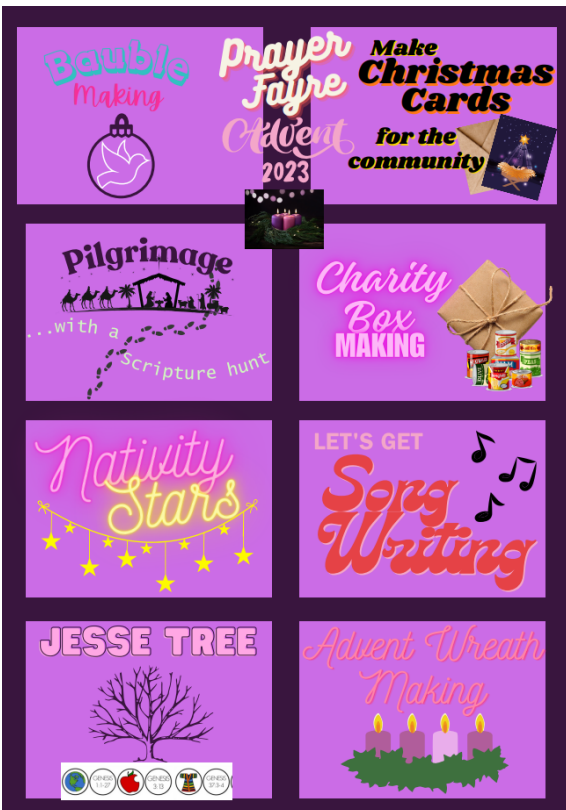
## Coming Soon — OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning)



After the Christmas holidays, we are excited to begin a new programme called OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning). This is an initiative which aims to make playtimes and lunchtimes more exciting. Embarking on the OPAL programme will enable us to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of our children’s play opportunities.

Children in British primary schools spend 20% or 1.4 years of their school attendance in play. Research shows that play contributes to children’s physical and emotional health, well-being, approach to learning and enjoyment of school. Given the importance of play, we want to transform the quality of play in our school to meet our children’s social, emotional and environmental needs. In order to do this, we will need your help! Over the next few weeks, we’ll share more information with you but for now, we want to introduce you to this exciting initiative.

## Catholic Life: Prayer Fayre



With Advent just around the corner (starting on Sunday 3rd December), our Chaplaincy Team have worked with Clare Lund, our Chaplain, to plan this year’s *Prayer Fayre*. The group got together to explore, plan and prepare a range of activities that would help all pupils in school to prepare for the gift of Jesus this Christmas.

As can be seen from the poster, the activities chosen range from making Advent Wreathes and making nativity stars to going on a pilgrimage and making Christmas cards to give to the lonely or vulnerable in our parish community. Each class will visit the *Prayer Fayre* on Thursday next week so we can begin Advent the following week ready to prepare for the birth of Our Saviour.

Many thanks to our Chaplaincy Team and to Clare Lund our Chaplain for planning and preparing this most special of days. As you’ll already know, all classes in school will showcase either a Nativity Play or a Carol Concert as part of our Advent preparations. Please do take note of the date/time of these events which can be found in the Key Dates section of this Newsletter.

Attendance this week: 94.8%	
FS2KW	91%
FS2NM	95.4%
Y1GV	97.3%
Y1JS	94.8%
Y2JY	91.2%
Y2RT	95%
Y3RB	95%
Y3AN	94%
Y4BF	93.3%
Y4DK	94.3%
Y5SC	95.6%
Y5VD	97.6%
Y6LB	96.3%
Y6HG	95.7%

## Christmas Fayre

SPA will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Friday 15th after school from 3.45pm. If you (or anyone you know) would be interested in running a stall, please let us know by contacting our School Office.

We're very lucky that Santa has been able to take time out of his busy schedule to visit on the day! We expect this will be quite popular so he will be in his grotto for much of the day from around 9.15am. A letter will be sent out next week so you can book a slot for your child to visit Santa. The cost of this will be £2.



## Mission: Charitable Giving



Monday was World Toilet Day! During Monday morning's Act of Liturgical Prayer, we discussed how everyone can make a difference in the world. Mrs Gregory has set a mission for all Year 1 to Year 6: to raise money for countries with poor access to basic toilets by twinning our school toilets! More information can be found here: <https://toilettwinning.org/>

Please keep an eye on your child's Class Dojo page where fundraising information will be shared. We're excited to see how much difference the youth in our school can have on the world!

## Word of the Week

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



## Liturgy of the Word/Mass

Date	Type of Service	Who's Involved?
Tuesday 28 November	Liturgy of the Word	Year 5
Tuesday 5 December	Mass	Year 4
Tuesday 12 December	Mass	Year 3

As ever, families and parishioners are most welcome to join us at 9.30am in Church for each celebration.

## Applying for a Reception place 2024-25

If your child turns 5 between 1st September 2024 and 31 August 2025 and you require a school place for September 2024, you can now apply for their place. The application window will be open until the deadline of Monday 15th January 2024. Applications can be made quickly and easily through the [Nottinghamshire County Council Admissions Hub](#). Please also remember to submit a Supplementary Information Form if you wish for a school place to be considered under a faith criterion. Please note that you MUST include the supporting evidence with this form. If you are unable to locate the required faith evidence, please contact the parish where your child was baptised in good time for a 'copy' certificate to be supplied. **All the details and relevant forms can be found on the Admissions section of our [website](#).**

For any prospective parents who would like to know more about our Reception classes, we have organised an Open Afternoon on Monday 18th December from 3pm until approximately 4pm. More details to follow.

## Wildlife Watch

We've received information from the Mansfield and Ashfield Wildlife Watch Group inviting anyone between 7 and 13 to join them for their Wildlife Watch. It takes place at St. Mark's Church Hall, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, NG18 1BP on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30 and 12.30.

For more information, please contact Sarah Spurry, Watch Leader by email: [mansfieldwatch@nottswt.co.uk](mailto:mansfieldwatch@nottswt.co.uk) or by phone: 07855 169111.



Nottinghamshire  
Wildlife Trust



## Join our Team!

We're looking for a fun, kind and caring Mid-day Supervisor to join our team. This is a fixed term contract until the end of the academic year. To find out more [click here](#). Please hurry as the closing date for applications is **Monday 4th December at 9am**.

## Cold Weather

It has been noticeably colder today and, according to the forecast, it's going to remain cold next week. Please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed as they will continue to play outside despite the colder temperatures.



## 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 30 Nov	All Day	Prayer Fayre	School Hall	Whole School
Thursday 7 Dec	All Day	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day (Bring a Bottle)		Whole School
Monday 11 Dec	6pm—7pm	Carol Concert	St. Philip's Church	Year 3 & Year 4
Tuesday 12 Dec	9.30am & 2.15pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	School Hall	Year 1 & Year 2
Thursday 14 Dec	9.30am	Carol Concert	School Hall	Year 3 & Year 4
Friday 15 Dec	9.30am & 2.15pm	Foundation Stage Nativity	School Hall	Foundation Stage
Friday 15 Dec	3.45pm	PTA Christmas Fayre	School Hall & Dining Room	Whole School
Monday 18 Dec	2pm	Visit to Pantomime Beauty & The Beast	Mansfield Palace Theatre	Year 1—Year 6
Thursday 21 Dec	2.30pm	Carol Concert	School Hall	Year 5 & Year 6

## **Notts Help Yourself**

Please see the information below from Nottinghamshire County Council.

# nottshelpyourself.org.uk

information and   
services, all in **one** place



**Notts Help Yourself helps you find the information you're looking for - all together in just in one place.**

Notts Help Yourself works on your smart phone, tablet or computer – and it's there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – even when you are out and about!

It's easy to filter by location, age group, need or disability or distance from your home so you can find the service that's right for you and your family.

Do you provide a service or run an activity or club?  
Promote yourself for free by registering on  
[nottshelpyourself.org.uk](http://nottshelpyourself.org.uk)



## What's on the website?



- Childcare
- Nottinghamshire's Best Start in Life
- Family Hub Networks
- Local Offers for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- Support with Confidence scheme – information on Personal Assistants for people with care needs
- Services to help you stay in your own home or find a nursing home
- Activities to do out at home and out and about
- Training and Employment
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Cost of Living, Food and Financial Support
- ..... and lots more

## Don't like computers?

Teams at your local library or family hub/children's centre can support you to find what you need on the website or you can speak to one of our trained advisors on the phone at Nottinghamshire County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0300 500 80 80**

### Can't find what you're looking for?

Let us know and we'll try and close that gap.

You can also give feedback on the services you've used through the "Rate and Review" button, where you can recommend providers to others, or make suggestions to improve services.