



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



**Newsletter Date:
Friday 22nd December, 2023**

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

End of Term

This week, we lit the third candle of our Advent Wreaths throughout school—a candle to represent 'Joy'. Throughout the week, we've been reflecting on Joy and exploring how to find joy within our own hearts and lives, within our community and things in our world that fill us with Joy. We also lit the forth candle today.



As we have journeyed through Advent together, we've been reminded of the hope, peace, joy and love that comes with this most special time of the year. We pray that, through the celebration of Our Lord's birth this Christmas, our community is blessed with hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas time. Today, your child will come home with a small white candle, which we invite you to light on Christmas day to represent the coming of Jesus.

For the final time, please find below our school prayer for Advent:

God our Father,

We come to you at Advent to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus. As we celebrate this wonderful time, help us to remember the reason you sent your son.

We want to be like Jesus: to live virtuously and follow in his footsteps.

Help us be what You want us to be as your children.

We want to help those in need at Christmas time.

We want to tell people about Jesus being born.

We will share your mission in the ways we think, speak and act.

God love us and bless us. Amen.

Attendance this week: 93.6%	
FS2KW	99.3%
FS2NM	93.6%
Y1GV	87.7%
Y1JS	94.2%
Y2JY	96.7%
Y2RT	91.8%
Y3RB	92.7%
Y3AN	95.7%
Y4BF	86.3%
Y4DK	93.7%
Y5SC	93.4%
Y5VD	93.9%
Y6LB	97.3%
Y6HG	94.3%

On behalf of us all at St. Philip Neri with St. Bede, I would like to wish you all a very happy, restful and holy Christmas. Please be reminded that **school will reopen to pupils on Thursday 4th January, 2024.**

Christmas Events

Yesterday, was the finale of our Christmas events. Year 5 & 6 performed their Carol Concert outstandingly well to a packed audience in St. Philip's Church using song, rhyme and scripture to retell the events of the very first Christmas. Many thanks to all the children for such a magical performance, and to the wonderful Year 5 and 6 staff team, along with Mr Mike Gregory for providing the accompaniment, for enabling this event to happen.

It must be said that the quality of all our Nativity and Carol Concert performances has been exceptional this year. My sincere thanks goes to the remarkable staff team, who work tirelessly to provide opportunities for our children to shine. And, of course, to our children who never appear to fail to rise to every challenge presented.

OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

Many thanks for your donations today. This money will be spent on purchasing games and toys ready for our OPAL launch. (More details about OPAL can be found on previous Newsletters). In case you have a post-Christmas clear out, please remember that we continue to look for donations. We'd gratefully receive anything from these categories (or similar):

- small world (cars, dinosaurs, farm animals)
- construction (Lego or similar building toys)
- role play (dressing up/ fancy dress clothes, hats, handbags)
- dolls (and accessories)
- crafting, colouring books, puzzle books etc
- umbrellas
- playmats or small carpet offcuts
- pushchairs (full size ones)

We also want to collect larger items but will not be introducing these for a while so would ask you not to throw away drainpipes, tubing, piping, pallets, tyres (car, motorbike, tractor), planks, decking, small crates). Please also note that, from February, all children will be required to have a pair of Wellington boots in school. This is so children can continue to play outside even when the ground is wet and muddy.



Fundraising

Thank you for your generosity over the last couple of weeks. At the beginning of Advent, Mrs Gregory set us a challenge: to help raise money for countries with poor access to toilets as part of the Toilet Twinning project <https://toilettwinning.org/>. I am delighted to confirm that we've raised £720, which is enough to buy 12 toilets! Further to this, our PTA would like to thank everyone who helped or attended the Christmas Fayre. Over £700 was raised. And well done to Year 1JS whose fundraising event raised £115.65 for their class charity, [Marine Life](#).

Word of the Week

When we return, our Word of the Week will be **Family**, 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 16 January	Mass	Year 2
Tuesday 23 January	Mass	Year 1
Tuesday 30 January	Liturgy of the Word	Year 6

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](#).**

Staffing Updates

Mr Bovell returns from his paternity leave after the Half Term Break. Meanwhile, Mrs Gregory will begin her Maternity Leave from today. Mrs Gregory will be greatly missed by us all but she will remain in our thoughts and prayers during her Maternity Leave. I am please to confirm that Miss Blount will be teaching Mrs Gregory's class next half term.

We currently have two vacancies within school. To access these adverts, please visit the links below:

[Full Time Class Teacher \(Fixed Term Contract\)](#)

[Midday Supervisor \(Fixed Term Contract\)](#)

Baby News

Huge congratulations to Mr Bovell, our Year 6 teacher, and his wife on the safe arrival of their baby daughter, Nancy.

Nancy was born at 12:49pm on Tuesday 12th December weighing 6lb 7oz. I know that you'll join your prayers and well-wishes with ours.



Key Dates

See below for some of next 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?
Tuesday 9 Jan	Afternoon	Meeting with All Saints' Head of Year 7	School	Year 6
Tuesday 16 Jan	9am	Hansel & Gretel Production	School	Foundation Stage
Wednesday 24 Jan	10am	Toddler Tales	Mansfield Library	Parents & Pre-School under 3s.

Please remember that school closes TODAY for the Christmas break at 3.30pm. We return on **Thursday 4th January, 2024** for the Lent Term.

Mass Times

I know that Canon John would be delighted to welcome you to St. Philip's Church this Christmas time. Mass times for Christmas are as follows:

Christmas Eve:

5:00pm St. Philip Neri, Mansfield*

5:00pm St. Joseph's, Shirebrook*

7.30pm St. Teresa's, Warsop

11:00pm St. Philip Neri, Mansfield
(Carols & Readings from 10.30pm)

St. Stephen's Day/Boxing Day

10:00am St. Philip Neri, Mansfield

Christmas Day:

10:00am St. Philip Neri, Mansfield

10:00am St. Patrick's, Forest Town

New Year's Day Mass

12:10pm St. Philip Neri, Mansfield

**Please note that the 5pm services on Christmas Eve are Children's Masses.*

Please also note that there is a Service of Reconciliation taking place on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm at St. Philip Neri Church, Mansfield.