



"We put Christ at the Centre of our Lives."



**Newsletter Date:
Friday 12th January, 2024**

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Happy New Year!

A very warm welcome back to school. Happy New Year to you all. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Having been back at school for just over a week now, we're certainly back into the full swing of learning. By the end of next week, you will receive a copy of this term's Curriculum Matters Newsletter from your class teacher, which will outline the learning that will take place between now and Easter.



Staffing Updates

It's been wonderful to welcome back Mr Bovell who returns from his paternity leave. We also share the exciting news that Mrs Gregory has safely delivered her baby yesterday. Mum and baby George are both doing well. We wish Mrs Gregory and her family well as they enjoy every moment of their George's arrival.



OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

We are now just 6 weeks away from launching OPAL, our new play initiative. Last week, we introduced the idea of improving outdoor play to the children in a special assembly. They are just excited to get started as we are! For those of you wanting to know more, take a look at this [short video](#) to get a sense of what we're trying to achieve.

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.



Attendance this week: 95.8%	
FS2KW	98.6%
FS2NM	95.2%
Y1GV	96.7%
Y1JS	98.7%
Y2JY	92%
Y2RT	93.7%
Y3RB	93.7%
Y3AN	96.7%
Y4BF	95%
Y4DK	97.7%
Y5SC	98.8%
Y5VD	97.6%
Y6LB	95%
Y6HG	91.3%

First Holy Communion

For parents of children in Year 3 or above intending for their child to receive First Holy Communion this year, please note that our First Holy Communion celebration will take place on **Saturday 15th June, 2024** at 10:00am in St. Philip's RC Church, Mansfield. An Enrolment Form was shared earlier in the week. Please return this to the Office by Friday 26th January if you wish for your child to prepare for receiving this Sacrament. Following receipt of this, further details of the programme will be shared.

Toddler Tales



The next Toddler Tales session will be on **Wednesday 24th January** and will take place at Mansfield Library for a special 'Rattle, Rhyme & Roll' nursery rhyme session. It would be wonderful if you'd be able to join us. Please meet at the library entrance at 10am or, if you'd like to walk down together, come to school for 9:40am.

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](#).**

Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **Discipleship**, which will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.

DISCIPLESHIP

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.

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. 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](#). Here, you will also find details of the school PE kit too.

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 16 Jan	9am	Hansel & Gretel Production	School	Foundation Stage
Wednesday 17 Jan	1.30pm—2pm	Drop in Session— Children's Centre & Health Family Team	School	Parents
Wednesday 24 Jan	10am	Toddler Tales	Mansfield Library	Parents & Pre-School under 3s.
Friday 26 Jan	2.45pm	Come & See Assembly	School Hall	Year 4
Thursday 8 Feb	During School	Year 5 Charity Bake Sale	School	Whole School
11 Mar —13 Mar		Residential Visit	Mount Cook	Year 4

Please note that the last day of this half term is Thursday 8th February. This means that Half Term will begin on Friday 9th February for our pupils. The Lent 2 term will begin on Monday 19th February.