



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



Newsletter Date:
Friday 19th January, 2024

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

We are now just 5 weeks away from launching OPAL, our new play initiative. In case you've missed it and would like to know more about OPAL, please do take a look at this [short video](#) to get a sense of what we're trying to achieve.



Many thanks for your donations — we truly appreciate your generosity. If you're having a clear out, please bare us in mind. We'd gratefully receive anything from these categories (or similar):

- small world (cars, dinosaurs, farm animals)
- construction (Lego or similar building toys)
- role play items inc fancy dress
- dolls (and accessories)
- craft, 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, motor-bike, 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.

Lost Property

Over the last few weeks, we've had increasing reports from parents of items of clothing going missing. If you come across any items in your home that do not belong to your child, we'd appreciate these being returned to school. Furthermore, in order to reduce the amount of lost property, **please ensure your child's name is clearly marked in all belongings so missing items can be easily returned.**



Attendance this week: 95.3%	
FS2KW	99.3%
FS2NM	94.3%
Y1GV	92%
Y1JS	98.7%
Y2JY	94%
Y2RT	93%
Y3RB	94.7%
Y3AN	96.7%
Y4BF	94.7%
Y4DK	95%
Y5SC	93.8%
Y5VD	93.6%
Y6LB	98%
Y6HG	97.3%

Toddler Tales



The next Toddler Tales session is next week, on **Wednesday 24th January** and will take place at Mansfield Library for a special 'Rattle, Rhyme & Roll' nursery rhyme session. Toddler Tales is a fun, interactive way to promote an early love of reading. The sessions also provide us with a good opportunity to get to know the children who may be considering joining our Nursery. Toddler Tales is aimed a parents/carers and their children aged 18 months to 2 years. It would be wonderful if you'd be able to join us. There's no need to sign up. Just meet Mrs Steele and Mrs Brizzolara at the library entrance at 10am or, if you'd like to walk down together, come to school for 9:40am.

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 last week. Please return this to the Office by next **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.

Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **Scripture**, 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 23 January	Mass	Year 1
Tuesday 30 January	Liturgy of the Word	Year 6
Tuesday 6 February	Mass	Year 5

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

Mansfield Children's Choir

Christopher Davis, the Choral Director for the Diocese of Nottingham, is looking for new members to join the Mansfield Children's Choir.

The choir is open from anyone aged seven and up. They rehearse after school each **Wednesday at St. Philip Neri Church from 4:30pm until 5:45pm**. Your child would be warmly welcomed.

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?
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
19th Mar & 21 Mar	From 3.45pm	Parents' Evening	School Hall & Dining Room	Reception — Y6

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.