



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



**Newsletter Date:
Friday 23rd February, 2024**

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

The Season of Lent

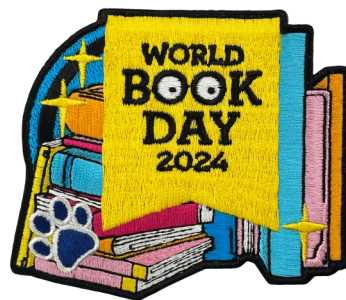
Welcome back! During Half Term, the church entered the most special season of Lent. To mark the beginning of Lent, our school chaplain, Clare Lund, led a special Penitential Rite service for our children. Next week, we will hold a Lent Prayer Fayre planned for by our chaplaincy team with a range of activities to help all children know more and embrace the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.



During Lent, we are encouraged by the Catholic Church to prioritise supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, we are delighted to confirm that our almsgiving efforts will support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in particular, the SVP volunteers in our own Parish. SVP volunteers are dedicated to tackling poverty and do this by providing practical assistance to people in need. More information about the SVP can be found on their [website](#) and we'll share more information about our almsgiving efforts next week. We will also welcome Mary Smith and Mary Ellerby into school, both SVP volunteers at St. Philip's Church, to lead an assembly and share more about their work with our children.

World Book Day

World Book Day, which takes place on Thursday 7th March, is just a couple of weeks away. The theme we will explore is based on reading at bedtime. For this reason, we wanted to give you advanced notice that your child will NOT need a special World Book Day costume. Instead, we will invite children to come to school in their pyjamas/comfy bedtime clothes, bringing with them a favourite story from home and a cuddly toy if they wish. *Please do not feel the need to buy anything new for this.*



Attendance this week: 96.7%	
FS2KW	97.2%
FS2NM	98%
Y1GV	95.2%
Y1JS	92.6%
Y2JY	97.2%
Y2RT	94.3%
Y3RB	89.7%
Y3AN	98.7%
Y4BF	97.3%
Y4DK	96.9%
Y5SC	99.7%
Y5VD	97.5%
Y6LB	99.7%
Y6HG	100%

OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

Hooray! OPAL has now officially launched! As you may have noticed, Welly Racks have been installed over the Half Term Break and our storage shed arrived earlier in the week too. Although we're right at the start of our OPAL journey, which has been somewhat hampered by torrential rain, the children are LOVING it! In case you missed it in the last Newsletter, we'd appreciate it if you could find a few minutes to read our updated Play Policy, which can be found on our [website](#). **Please also note that children are required to have a pair of Wellington boots in school in order to access all areas.** This is so they can continue to play outside even when the ground is wet and muddy.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place at the end of this term on Tuesday 19th March and Thursday 21st March. These will be face-to-face meetings in school. From the end of next week, you will receive the usual form to complete, which requests your preferred date and time of appointment.

First Holy Communion

Please keep in your prayers our 42 children who will begin the First Holy Communion programme this week-end. Their journey begins this Sunday with their Enrolment Mass.



Staffing Update

Next Friday, we welcome back Miss Holly Brailsford from Maternity Leave, and Miss Paige Turner returns from her Maternity Leave a week on Monday. Miss Turner will be the Nursery TA on a Monday and Tuesday; Miss Brailsford will be the Nursery TA on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Taylor who is the current TA in Nursery will instead be supporting both Reception classes. We look forward to welcoming both staff members back. Separately, Miss Wilmott, our Care Assistant working in Year 1, has successfully gained her first TA role in a different school and will be leaving us in the next few weeks. I thank Miss Wilmott for all that she has done for our pupils and wish her every happiness and success in her new role. We will make the most of our final few weeks with her in our school.

Liturgy of the Word/Mass

Date	Type of Service	Who's Involved?
Tuesday 27 February	Liturgy of the Word	Year 3
Tuesday 5 March	Liturgy of the Word	Year 2
Tuesday 12 March	Mass	Year 1
Tuesday 19th March	Mass	Year 1—Year 6

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

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?
Thursday 29 Feb	3pm	Come & See Assembly	School Hall	Year 3
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
Tuesday 26 March	From 9am	Class Photographs	School Hall	Whole School
Thursday 28 March	3pm	Stations of the Cross Presentation	School Hall	Key Stage 2

Word of the Week

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

Swimming Gala

Well done to each child who competed in the this year's Swimming Gala on Tuesday. They all did brilliantly and were a real credit to our school. Miss Nicholls returned to school bursting with pride!