



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



**Newsletter Date:**  
**Friday 6th September, 2024**

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

## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday and managed to spend some quality time with your loved ones. May I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and new starters; I know you'll soon discover just how kind, generous and supportive our school community is, and we all look forward to working closely with you all during your time in our school. May I also formally welcome our new staff members — Miss Bowen, our new Year 2 teacher and Miss Sunderland as our new Year 4 teacher. We also welcome Miss Taylor our TA Apprentice working in Nursery and Reception. Thank you for already making our new staff members feel so welcome. From speaking to teachers and children, and visiting each classroom since returning, there's a real sense of calm, purpose and joy around school, which is just wonderful to see. Long may this continue!



Please be reminded of our school start and end times:

Class	Start of the Day	End of the Day
Nursery am	08:45	11:45
Nursery pm	12:30	15:30
Reception — Y6	Gates open: 08:35 Doors open: 08:40 Lessons Begin: 08:55	Gates open: 15:20 Lessons End: 15:30

**Attendance this week: 93.1%**

FS2KW	100%
FS2NM	96.7%
Y1JY	90.6%
Y1JS/BS	93.1%
Y2RB	92.1%
Y2RT	93.5%
Y3RB	93.8%
Y3AN	91.3%
Y4AS/HG	90.6%
Y4DK	87.9%
Y5BF	93.2%
Y5VD	87.8%
Y6SC	98.4%
Y6HG	97.3%

Please arrive as closely to 8:40am as possible as the first 15 minutes of the day is used as *Genius Time* where children are able to read, respond to their teacher's marking or work with an adult on a 1:1 or small group basis to address any misconceptions with work from the previous day. Children who arrive at 8.55am are missing out on this opportunity.

## School Uniform

Many thanks to nearly all parents who've ensured their children have returned to school fully adhering to our School Uniform & Presentation Policy. The children look incredibly smart which has been commented on by staff, parents and pupils alike. Please remember that children can continue to wear their summer uniform this half term.

A small number of children appear not to be wearing the correct uniform yet. 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](#).

## Nut Free School

Please be informed/reminded that we have pupils with severe nut allergies in our school. Consequently, we are completely nut free due to these children's allergy being life threatening. The children suffer an allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and by breathing nut dust in the air. It really is that serious. Therefore, we are asking for all members of our school community to help minimise the risk to these children by:



- 1) Avoiding giving your child/children nuts or products that contain nuts in packed lunches.
- 2) Avoiding giving your child/children nuts or nut products including cereal bars that contain nuts for break-times.
- 3) Avoiding items that contains nuts when supplying us with cakes, treats etc for birthday celebrations, sales or events.

Please note that where a member of staff notices a pupil eating a nut product, it will be removed politely and the member of staff will explain why this has been done. A message/call will then be made to the parent to explain why this has happened so they are fully informed and to remind them of the nut-free policy.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to protect these children.

## Attendance

Overall attendance for the last academic year was 95.3%, which is really good although just below our Trust target of 97%. This year, we ask for your continued support as we work in partnership so that school attendance is high. Please be reminded that the Department for Education states that:

- Parents and carers have a duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school, where that child is a registered pupil at school and of a compulsory school age;
- If your child is unwell or unable to attend school for whatever reason, you must notify school;
- Schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up all absences;
- Schools may issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the local authority's guidelines.

As stated in our [Pupil Attendance Policy](#), a leave of absence which has not been approved will be unauthorised and may lead to a referral being made to the Local Authority for action. For schools within Nottinghamshire County Council, a Penalty Notice will be requested if an unauthorised holiday is taken in excess of 5 days/10 sessions (over a 10 week rolling period).

## Word of the Week

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



## Parish Updates & Mass

Over the summer, we have welcomed the return of Fr. Paul Smith to our Parish to support Canon John. We are excited to be working with Fr. Paul again and look forward to celebrating Mass with both our priest soon. Our first Mass will take place on Tuesday 24th September for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. This year's Mass/Liturgy of the Word timetable will be shared in next week's Newsletter.

If you are new to our school and want to find out more about our Parish, I would encourage you to visit their website. The Parish Newsletter is also shared weekly on Class Dojo.

## OPAL Non-uniform Day

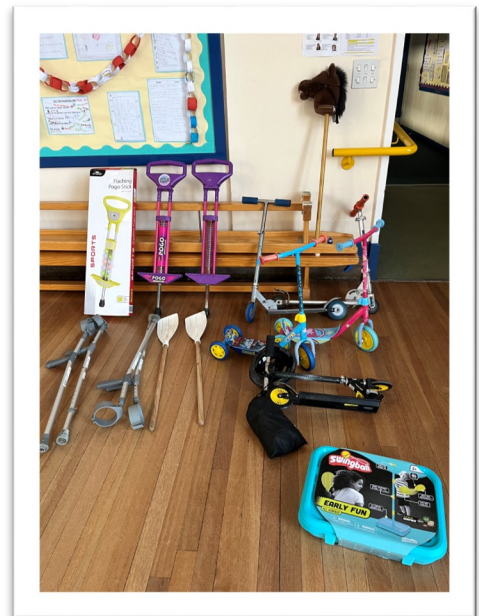
Huge thanks for your generosity today where children wore non-uniform in exchange for donating toys and items for our OPAL lunchtimes. The response has been phenomenal as can be seen on the photos below!

For parents new to our school, allow me to introduce OPAL to you. OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is an initiative which aims to make lunchtimes more exciting. The Programme enables us to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of our children's play opportunities for all children from Year 1 to Year 6.



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 are transforming the quality of play in our school to meet our children's social, emotional and environmental needs. Your donations help us to achieve this.

To find out more about OPAL, simply visit our [website](#) which contains photographs, information and everything there is to know about our exciting lunchtimes. Look out soon for our OPAL Open Day, coming in October.



## Curriculum Matters: Class Newsletters

You will receive this term's Class Newsletter, Curriculum Matters, from your child's teacher by the end of next week. This document outlines the term's main areas of learning and all essential information to enable you to support your child's learning at home. I hope you find the information useful. If there are any aspects of learning you think you'd be able to support teachers with, please do let us know.



## Key Dates & After School Clubs

This half term's Key Dates will be shared in next week's Newsletter. Our After School Clubs resume from next week. Please check Class Dojo to see the clubs that are on offer and to request for your child to join. Please note that our After School Clubs change each half term.