



We put Christ at the Centre of our Lives: Think, Speak, Act.



Newsletter Date:
Friday 6th December, 2024

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Catholic Life: Advent

On Sunday, we entered the most special and holy season of Advent. This is a time of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Across the school, we have created peaceful and reflective prayer spaces to encourage our children to enter into the spirit of waiting and hoping.

Each day, we continue to pray our whole school Advent Prayer (see below) which was written by the children in our recent Advent Prayer Fayre. We also hold a daily Jesse tree reflection in each class to learn more about Jesus' ancestry and family tree. Further to this, each class has an Advent Wreath and are using these to count down the weeks to Christmas. I am also most grateful to Canon John and Fr Liam who have supported our Advent preparations by coming into school this week to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to all who have made their First Holy Communion. We also hope our Travelling Nativity is helping you prepare for Christmas at home too.

Attendance this week: 96.7%

FS2KW	94%
FS2NM	99%
Y1BS	97%
Y1JY	100%
Y2RB	93%
Y2RT	98%
Y3RB	96%
Y3AN	98%
Y4AS	91%
Y4DK	97%
Y5BF	98%
Y5VD	96%
Y6LB	96%
Y6SC	93%

God, our Father,
You are the Light of the World.
Thank You for sending us Your gift of love,
Jesus, and helping us to know You.
We are grateful for our saviour; Lord, Jesus Christ.

Help us to prepare for Christmas like Mary and Joseph and to say "yes" to your call.
Help us to stay on the right path and be good people.
Help us to be ready for Jesus in our hearts.

Thank You for helping us to be good people who are learning to share our love around the world.

Jesus; help us to have peace this Advent and allow us to help those in need.
Lord, we ask you to help us discover joy and hope this Christmas time and throughout the year.

We will share Your mission in how we THINK (+), SPEAK (+) and ACT (+).

God love us and bless us.
Amen

Next week, our Advent preparations continue. We look forward to the Key Stage 1 Nativity Play on Tuesday at 9.30am and at 2pm. We also look forward to our Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert on Wednesday at 5pm in St. Philip's RC Church, who will be joined by Year 3 & Year 4 from St. Patrick's School, Forest Town. And Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner day is on Thursday!

Christmas Masses

I know that Canon John would be delighted to welcome you to one of our parish churches this Christmas time. Mass times for Christmas are as follows:

Christmas Eve:	Christmas Day:
5:00pm St. Philip Neri, Mansfield*	10:00am St. Philip Neri, Mansfield
5:00pm St. Joseph's, Shirebrook*	10:00am St. Patrick's, Forest Town
7.30pm St. Teresa's, Warsop	
11:00pm St. Philip Neri, Mansfield (Carols & Readings from 10.30pm)	

**These are children's Masses. Children are invited to come dressed as angels/shepherds.*

Catholic Schools Inspection Report

Just in case you missed it last week, I am delighted to share with you our CSI Inspection [Report](#) following our inspection on 7th and 8th November. As you'll see, the inspectors recognised the many strengths of our school in terms of outcomes, provision and leadership. The Report is a real celebration of our wonderful school and all with whom we work—Governors, the Parish and Clergy, Staff, Parents and of course, our delightful children who were recognised as displaying “exemplary behaviour”.

The [Report](#) also recognised the areas that we had identified as being our areas for development. I am excited to confirm that work to develop these areas has already begun.

Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week is **peace** 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 10 December	Mass	Year 4
Tuesday 17 December	Liturgy of the Word	Year 3

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

PTA Christmas Fayre

Thanks so much to our amazing PTA for organising a truly wonderful Christmas Fayre today. As always, it was fabulous to see our community come together in our School Hall. Special thanks, of course, to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit our children today!



Thanks, as ever, for your generosity. We know money is tight and appreciate your support. The PTA will confirm next week the amount raised all of which will be reinvested for the benefit of the children.

New Fencing Works — Update

I now have confirmation that the installation of our new fencing works **will begin next Wednesday**. This work has been partly funded by the DfE and our Trust to further improve the security of our school site. As you'll have read in previous Newsletters, this work will consist of:

- erecting 6ft green fencing along the perimeter of the school car park and installing new 6ft entry/exit gates;
- removing the wooden fencing that borders our Foundation Stage field and Tesco, and replacing this with 6ft green slatted fencing;
- removing the older green fencing at the end of our school field that borders with Westfield Lane and replacing with new, green slatted fencing.

The work begins next week with removing the Foundation Stage wooden fence and replacing this with the new green slatted fencing. The work will then continue after the Christmas break. We do not anticipate that this will cause too much disruption but once it begins, we will keep you updated if alternative plans or arrangements will be required. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Toddler Tales

Just a reminder that if you (or someone you know) has a child aged 18 months to 3 years old, we'd love you to join us for our Christmas session on **Wednesday 11th December @ 9:15am** where we will be sharing Christmas stories and having some festive fun. There will also be tea/coffee, juice and treats as usual plus a chance to meet and chat to other parents.

For those of you not already aware, Toddler Tales is a fun, interactive way to promote an early love of reading. The sessions also provide us with the opportunity to get to know the children who may be considering joining our Nursery at some point in the future.



If you're able to make it, please arrive at the school office just before 9:15am.

Applying for a Reception place 24-25

If your child turns 5 between 1st September 2025 and 31 August 2026 and you require a school place for September 2025, you can now apply for their place. The application window will be open until the deadline of Monday 15th January 2025. 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](#)** but please do contact the school office if you need any help or advice.

Key Dates

As well as checking the dates below, we strongly advise that you check Class Dojo regularly to see notifications of other events, including specific year group activities and Class Charity Events. Please note that new events may appear each week so please check back each week in case new events appear!

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who's Involved?
Tuesday 10 Dec	9.30am—10.15am	KS1 Nativity Play	School Hall	Year 1 & Year 2
Tuesday 10 Dec	2pm—2.45pm	KS1 Nativity Play	School Hall	Year 1 & Year 2
Wednesday 11 Dec	9.15am—10.15am	Toddler Tales	The Hub	18 months to 3 years
Wednesday 11 Dec	5pm—6pm	Carol Concert	St. Philip's Church	Year 3 & Year 4
Thursday 12 Dec	9.30am—10.15am	Carol Concert	School Hall	Year 3 & Year 4
Thursday 12 Dec		Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day		Whole School
Wednesday 18 Dec	9.30am—10am	Foundation Nativity Play	School Hall	Nursery & Reception
Wednesday 18 Dec	2pm—2.30pm	Foundation Nativity Play	School Hall	Nursery & Reception
Friday 20 Dec	2pm – 2.45pm	Carol Concert	St. Philips' Church	Year 5 & Year 6

Please note that the Advent Term ends at 3.30pm on Friday 20th December. We return to school on Monday 6th January, 2025 at 8.40am. Term dates, including INSET days, can be found [here on our school website](#).