



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



**Newsletter Date:**  
**Friday 31st January, 2025**

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

## Catholic Jubilee Year of Hope

This week, in our role as pilgrims of hope, our Year 6 children visited St Philip’s church to embark on a pilgrimage. They took time to study and reflect on the Stations of the Cross, learn more about St. Philip Neri, they lit a votive candle to pray a prayer of hope and learnt more about the side chapels of our church. Our pupils were joined by Year 6 students from St. Joseph’s, Shirebrook. This provided a wonderful opportunity of our children to come together on a journey of prayer and hope.



**Attendance this week: 94.6%**

FS2KW	99.5%
FS2NM	96.2%
Y1BS	97%
Y1JY	97.7%
Y2GB	84.7%
Y2RT	92.7%
Y3RB	94.4%
Y3AN	88.3%
Y4AS	97.5%
Y4DK	98.1%
Y5BF	95%
Y5VD	96.2%
Y6LB	95.3%
Y6SC	92.9%



Over the next few weeks, pupils from Year 3, 4 and 5 will also be provided with this same opportunity. Huge thanks to our chaplains, Clare and Luke, for planning, leading and organising this pilgrimage, and to Canon John and Fr. Liam for allow the children to explore our church.

## OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning)

This week, we have introduced more water play in the small playground. Those that have waterproof clothes and wellies have been using the outdoor tap and equipment to collect and carry water. They have made bubbly puddles, cleaned windows, played with our waterwall and have great fun sweeping bubbly paths for those in shoes to travel along.

The risks, benefits and rules were established by the whole school in the last assembly and can be found on the back page of this Newsletter alongside some wonderful photos from this week. We ask that you look at the link at the top of the poster to see the latest promotional video for OPAL. We also encourage you to provide your child with waterproof clothes that will allow them to engage in this play. Finally, thank you for your ongoing support - our audit shows that nearly all pupils have wellies now which is contributing to some amazing play and wonderful afternoons.

Visit [our website](#) to see photos and to find out more about OPAL.

## Gold School Games Mark



We’re excited and extremely proud to announce that our school achieved the **Gold School Games Mark** for 2023/24! The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and in the community. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success. Many thanks to Miss Nicholls and our PE and extra-curricular team, and thank you to everyone for your support in helping us promote a love for sport and physical activity.

## Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 4th March and Thursday 6th March. These will be face-to-face meetings in school. From 6pm this evening, you will be able to book a slot to meet your child's class teacher using the Arbor app.

These meetings update you on your child's engagement, attitude, achievements and friendships, but they will also provide ideas of how to support your child at home. Many thanks in advance for ensuring that you make an appointment to meet your child's teacher.

## Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is *Place2Be's* Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. The mental health of our children is extremely important to us so our Wellbeing Ambassadors have organised a range of wellbeing activities. Each day next week, all children will take time out from class to walk a mile around our track, talking and recognising the beauty of nature around us and the benefits of physical activity. They have organised *Wellbeing Wednesday* too where all children will spend time carrying out activities to promote mental health, for example, making positive affirmations, exploring feelings through stories, playing board games, Lego and card games and using Play-Doh to develop an awareness of our bodies and feelings. **All children (and staff!) are invited to wear colourful clothes on Wednesday** but please be mindful of the weather. If your child has PE on Wednesdays, it would be advisable to wear joggers and trainers.

Many thanks to our Wellbeing Ambassadors, led by Mrs Hunt and Mrs Berry, for planning and organising these activities. We hope the children enjoy the week and come home to tell you all about it.

## 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 next Toddler Tales session, which takes place on **Wednesday 12th February @ 9:15am** where our session will be an Under the Sea theme based on Benji Davies' beautiful story, 'The Storm Whale'.

For those of you who don't know, 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. New faces are very welcome.

We'll have tea, coffee, juice and treats aplenty and you'll also have the chance to chat and get to know other parents. See you there!



## Toddler Tales

## Liturgy of the Word/Mass

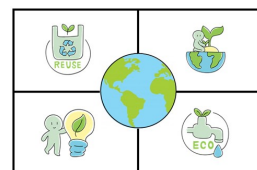
Date	Type of Service	Who's Involved?
Tuesday 4 February	Liturgy of the Word	Year 5
Tuesday 11 February	Liturgy of the Word	Year 4
Tuesday 25 February	Mass	Year 3

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

## Eco Team's Eco Tip!

### Cut down on fast fashion

Reusing and donating clothes reduces textile waste and helps the environment.



## Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **Humility**. Humility is putting others before ourselves. When we show humility, we are open to learning from others and are willing to serve others. As we grow in humility, we become more like Jesus Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity. This word will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.

## Lime Trees Wrap Around Care

If you need wrap around care, please be reminded of the service that *The Lime Trees* provide right here on our school site. Their breakfast club runs from 7.30am and after school provision runs until 6pm. Find out more here on [our website](#).



## Visit from Steve Yemm MP

We were delighted to welcome Mr Steve Yemm, MP for Mansfield into school today. Mr Yemm led two assemblies to tell all children from Reception to Year 6 a little bit more about his job, what his role entails and some of the projects he is currently working on to make Mansfield a better place. The children were also given the opportunity to ask him questions too. I'm also thankful to Mr Yemm for taking the time to speak to me about the current challenges facing education and for speaking to parents/carers at the end of the school day today.



## Governor Vacancy

Today you will have received an email to notify you that we have a parent governor vacancy and therefore invite you to stand for election as parent governor or nominate another parent to do so. Our governors are the 'eyes and ears' of the Trust Board and have delegated responsibilities to support the Headteacher strategically. No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the Local Governing Body's work. Committee meetings are half termly, usually held at 5.30pm in school lasting for up to two hours.

We would particularly welcome nominations from parents with the following skills: a strong commitment to ensuring there are high aspirations for all children in our school; a commitment to supporting the Headteacher to achieving the best possible outcomes for all the pupils; to be willing to commit their time to undertake training, visits and monitoring exercises and then provide feedback in governors meetings; to be naturally inquisitive; to have the ability to question and analyse; to have good interpersonal skills and a willingness to learn. However, training is available for all governors and there is an expectation that those new to being a governor attend induction training, as well as having a commitment to attend other training as necessary.

More information, including the Nomination Form, can be found in the email. Thanks in advance.

## Theatre Visit

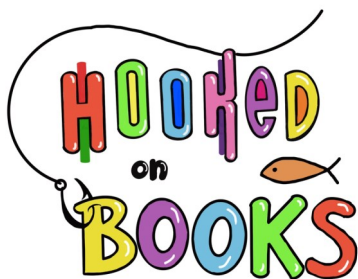
It was wonderful to welcome the team from the Nottingham Playhouse on Wednesday. They visited school to present *The Ugly Duckling* to Foundation Stage children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were engaged throughout. Huge thanks to our PTA for funding this visit.



**NOTTINGHAM  
PLAYHOUSE**

## Hooked On Books

Our Hooked on Books initiative has been really well received so far this term for our Year 1 classes. Hooked on Books is an opportunity for parents/carers/grandparents to come along and enjoy some quality time sharing our new treasure chests of stories with their children and to stay to listen to a class story at the end of the session together too. Please see this term's dates for your child's class below:



Date	Year Group
6th February	Year 2GB
7th February	FS1 & FS2
13th February	Year 3RB

Date	Year Group
27th February	Year 3AN
6th March	Year 4DK
13th March	Year 4AS
20th March	Year 5VD
27th March	Year 5BF
3rd April	Year 6LB & 6SC

Each session will start at 9am so please arrive at the School Office a few minutes before this time and the class teacher will be there to greet you. Please note that the **FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception) and Y3RB** sessions will take place **3pm**, not 9am.

## 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?
Wed 5 February	All Day	Wellbeing Wednesday	Across School	Whole School
Friday 7 February	9.00am—9.30am	Come & See Assembly	School Hall	Year 1 & Year 2
Wed 12 February	9.15am—10.15am	Toddler Tales	The Hub	Parents & Toddlers
Thurs 13 February	6.00pm—8.00pm	PTA Family Bingo Night	School Hall	Whole School
Tuesday 4 March	3.40pm—6.00pm	Parents' Evening	School Hall	Whole School
Thursday 6 March	3.40pm—6.00pm	Parents' Evening	School Hall	Whole School
Friday 21 March	9.00am—9.30am	Choral Verse	School Hall	FS2, Y1, Y2
Friday 28 March	9.00am—9.30am	Choral Verse	School Hall	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Please be aware that the PTA have POSTPONED the Family Bingo Night due to take place on 13th February. This event will now take place on Thursday 24th April.

Please note that the our next INSET Day is on Friday 14th February. Therefore, the Half Term holiday begins on Thursday 13th February at 3.30pm. We return to school on Monday 24th February, 2025 at 8.40am. Term dates, including INSET days, can be found [here on our school website](#).

# KIDS HALF TERM Activity Club

18th & 19th  
February

Drop off - 0900  
Collection - 1500



£20

Per Child, Per Day  
Meals, Snacks  
and Drinks  
Included

**Children Aged 5 to 11**  
**A Variety of Activities Available**  
**Throughout the Campus**

**Sports, Crafts, Drama,**  
**Computing, and more.**



Scan QR Code to book

For More information, contact us :  
[Scott.corah@wnc.ac.uk](mailto:Scott.corah@wnc.ac.uk)

Vision West Notts College, Derby Rd, NG18 5BH

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



### A new OPAL advert

Please check this [link](#) to see the latest explanation of the benefits of OPAL.



# Wet play: benefits and rules

## Benefits

- fine and gross motor skills are developed
- teamwork and positive interactions
- Maths skills in space, capacity and weight
- improved creativity
- therapeutic and sensory benefits
- hand-eye co-ordination skills used



## Risks

- We could get wet.
- We could get someone else wet.
- We might lose the wet play equipment.

## Rules

- Wear waterproofs and wellies.
- Plan and check your path.
- Choose it - use it - put it away.

