



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

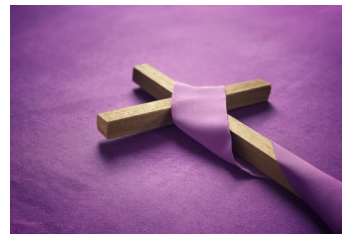
Newsletter Date:
Friday 28th February, 2025

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Welcome back!

It's been great to welcome the children back following the Half Term break. We hope you managed to enjoy some family time. Next week, the church will enter the most special season of Lent. To mark the beginning of Lent, we will hold two very special Ash Wednesday services in school—one for Foundation & Key Stage 1 children, and one for Key Stage 2. All children will receive the ashes during these services, which will have been blessed during the celebration of Mass at All Saints' School.

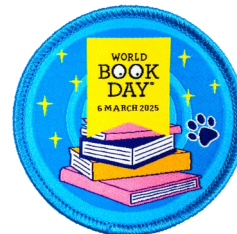
During Lent, we are encouraged by the Catholic Church to prioritise supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, we are delighted to confirm that our almsgiving efforts will support the work of the Sherwood Forest Foodbank. More information about the Foodbank can be found on their [website](#) and we'll share more information about our almsgiving efforts next week.



World Book Day

We're really excited to be celebrating World Book Day next Thursday and invite your child to come to school dressed up as one of their favourite book characters or as a favourite author. Please do not feel the need for this to be a shop-bought costume; there are lots of great ideas online for creating homemade costumes. Some ideas can be found [here](#). Alternatively, your child can come to school simply wearing their pyjamas if they prefer.

We have lots planned to make the day exciting and fun as we promote a love of reading. Thanks in advance for your support.



Liturgy of the Word/Mass

| Date | Type of Service | Who's Involved? |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 4 March | NONE | NONE |
| Tuesday 11 March | Mass | Year 2 |
| Tuesday 18 March | Liturgy of the Word | Year 1 |
| Tuesday 25 March | NONE | NONE |

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

Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **Temperance** which is about finding balance in our lives, enjoying God's gifts in moderation and avoiding excess. It's about self-control, discipline, and making choices that honour our bodies and souls. When we practice temperance, we cultivate a deeper relationship with God and discover true happiness.

This word will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.

Attendance this week: 97%

| | |
|-------|-------|
| FS2KW | 98.4% |
| FS2NM | 98.8% |
| Y1BS | 95.7% |
| Y1JY | 91.3% |
| Y2GB | 97.3% |
| Y2RT | 95% |
| Y3RB | 95.6% |
| Y3AN | 99.4% |
| Y4AS | 93.8% |
| Y4DK | 96.9% |
| Y5BF | 98.1% |
| Y5VD | 98.3% |
| Y6LB | 97.5% |
| Y6SC | 97.1% |

Parents' Evening

We look forward to inviting you into school for Parents' Evening next week on Tuesday 4th March and Thursday 6th March. Please arrive just a few minutes before your appointment time. Meetings with Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 teachers will take place in the Dining Hall. Please wait in the Liturgical Lounge (Entrance hall) to be called.

Meetings with Key Stage 2 teachers will take place in the School Hall. You are warmly invited to view your child's work in their books; these will be available for you to look through in your child's classroom.

If you haven't yet made an appointment to meet your child's class teacher, please do so as a matter of urgency using the Arbor app as these meetings will update you on your child's engagement, attitude, achievements and friendships. They will also provide ideas of how to support your child at home.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Swimming Gala

MASSIVE congratulations to all the swimmers who performed brilliantly at the swimming gala on Tuesday. Their hard work, effort and determination was truly impressive. As well as representing our school so wonderfully, they also managed to secure 3rd place which is a fantastic achievement. We're all very proud.

Many thanks to Miss Nicholls and to Mr Brown for enabling us to take part and thank you to the parents who were able to join us and cheer the children on.

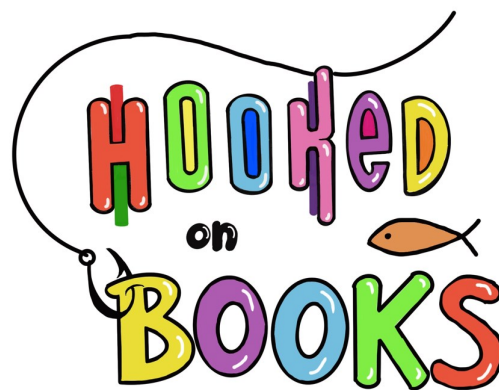


Hooked On Books

Our Hooked on Books initiative continues this half term for our Year 4, 5 and 6 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 | Start Time & Place |
|------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 6th March | Year 4DK | 3pm, 4DK classroom |
| 13th March | Year 4AS | 3pm, Dining Hall |
| 20th March | Year 5VD | 9am, Dining Hall |
| 27th March | Year 5BF | 9am, Dining Hall |
| 3rd April | Year 6LB & 6SC | 9am, Dining Hall |

Please arrive at the School Office a few minutes before this time and the class teacher will be there to greet you.



Religion & Belief Roadshow

We were delighted to welcome the community of the St. Philip's Centre from Leicester into our school yesterday for a special Religion & Belief Roadshow.



The Roadshow provided our children from Year 2 upwards with an exciting and interactive opportunity to view artefacts and resources from different faiths and speak to members of these faith groups to learn more and ask questions about their beliefs. It was a vibrant, fun and hands-on learning experience that was well-received by our children. Many thanks to the St. Philip's Centre practitioners.

Online Safety

The National College have produced some helpful guides for internet use, which are helpful for both children and adults. Over the next few weeks, I will share guides to provide you with more information about commonly used social media apps and games. This week's guide (which can be found on the final page of this Newsletter) is about WhatsApp, which is an instant messaging and voice-over-IP service owned by technology conglomerate Meta. It allows users to send text, voice messages and video messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other content. The age restriction for WhatsApp is 13+. It is important to note that 18+ content can be shared using the app. Further help and advice about WhatsApp can also be found on the [NSPCC website](#) as well as on the last page of this Newsletter.

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 4 March | 3.40pm—6.00pm | Parents' Evening | School Hall | Whole School |
| Thursday 6 March | All Day | World Book Day | | Whole School |
| Thursday 6 March | 9.30am—10.30am | Pilgrimage to Church | St Philip's Church | Year 4 |
| Thursday 6 March | 3.40pm—6.00pm | Parents' Evening | School Hall | Whole School |
| Thursday 17 March | From 9.00am | Confessions (Lent) | Sacred Space | Catholic children |
| Thursday 20 March | 9.30am—10.30am | Pilgrimage to Church | St Philip's Church | Year 5 |
| Friday 21 March | 9.00am—9.30am | Choral Verse | School Hall | FS2, Y1, Y2 |
| Wed 26 March | 10.00am—12pm | Pantomime Visit | All Saints' | Year 5 |
| Friday 28 March | 9.00am—9.30am | Choral Verse | School Hall | Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 |

Events scheduled for the last week of this half term will be shared next week. Please note that the Easter holidays begin on Friday 4th April at 3.30pm. We return to school on Tuesday 22nd April, 2025 at 8.40am. Term dates, including INSET days, can be found [here on our school website](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

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