



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

Newsletter Date:
Friday 14th March, 2025

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Parent Survey

Many thanks to those of you who found time to respond to our Parent Survey last week. The survey has now closed but the results can be found [here](#). It was really wonderful to receive such positive feedback. Having studied the results of this survey, we have identified two areas that we will work on to further strengthen. These are outlined below:

| You Said... | We will... |
|--|--|
| Some respondents 'disagreed' that their child can take part in clubs and activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak to the children to explore broadening our offer of After School Clubs. Based on what the children tell us, liaise with external providers in an effort to offer a greater variety of After School Clubs. Aim to begin offering a wider range of After School Clubs after Easter. |
| A very small number of respondents 'disagreed' that school makes parents aware of what their child will learn. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current Curriculum Matters format and consider how this information can be more effectively shared and when this is shared. Signpost parents to the Curriculum section of our website. Review the Curriculum section of the website to develop the type and amount of information shared. |

Attendance this week: 97.6%

FS2KW 97.7%

FS2NM 100%

Y1BS 97.3%

Y1JY 98.4%

Y2GB 96.7%

Y2RT 96%

Y3RB 97.2%

Y3AN 97.1%

Y4AS 99.1%

Y4DK 99.4%

Y5BF 90.9%

Y5VD 99.4%

Y6LB 98.4%

Y6SC 99.4%

Liturgy of the Word/Mass

| Date | Type of Service | Who's Involved? |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 18 March | Liturgy of the Word | Year 1 |
| Tuesday 25 March | NONE | NONE |
| Tuesday 1 April | Mass | Year 6 |

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

Word of the Week

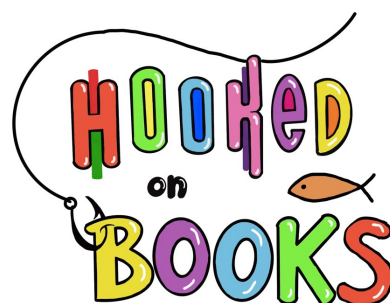
Next week, our Word of the Week will be **Fasting** which is a way of showing self-discipline and of focusing our relationship with God. Fasting can also be a way of expressing solidarity with those who are less fortunate. During Lent, fasting allows us to follow the example of Jesus in the desert, and to grow in our compassion for others.

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

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 |
|------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 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.

Online Safety

The National College have produced some helpful guides for internet use, which are beneficial for both children and adults. Last week's guide provided information about screen addiction. This week's guide (which can be found on the next page of this Newsletter) is about Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta. Facebook is free and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

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? |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 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 |
| Wed 2 April | 10.30am—11am | Resurrection Rocks! | School Hall | Year 3 & Year 4 |
| Friday 4 April | 9.00am—9.30am | Virtues Assembly | School Hall | Whole School |
| Friday 4 April | 2.30pm—3pm | Stations of the Cross | 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](#).



CEREAL BOX DOMINOES



THANK YOU!



This Lent, we are going to be doing something really exciting in school... CEREAL BOX DOMINOES!!

Over the next few weeks, we challenge you to bring in a full box of cereal to donate to the foodbank.

We will line up all the donated cereal boxes like dominoes in a long chain across the school. When the final box is placed, we will knock them down and watch them fall like a giant domino rally!

After the fun, all the boxes will be donated to families in need through our local food bank.

Please bring all Cereal Boxes into school between
Monday 24th and Thursday 27th March

WHAT PLAY DID YOU TAKE PART IN THIS WEEK?

OPAL FRIENDS



WHO DID YOU PLAY WITH THIS WEEK?



WHO WILL YOU PLAY WITH NEXT WEEK?

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12-15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12-15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



Sources: www.facebook.com/safety/bullying

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