



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

Newsletter Date:
Friday 19th December, 2025

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Catholic Life: Advent

This week, we lit the third candle of our Advent Wreaths throughout school — a candle to represent 'Joy'. Throughout the week, we've been reflecting on Joy and exploring how to find joy within our own hearts and lives, within our community and in our world. In readiness of the final week of Advent, we also lit the fourth candle of our Advent Wreaths today, which represents 'Love'.



As we have journeyed through Advent together, we've been reminded of the hope, peace, joy and love that comes with this most special time of the year. This week, our Foundation Stage children reminded us of the first Christmas in their wonderful Nativity Play. And today, we ended the term with our Year 5 and Year 6 children who led us in a beautiful Carol Concert in church, singing of the celebration of Our Lord's birth at Christmas.

As this term draws to a close, we are able to reflect with joy on what has been a successful and rewarding term: the children have worked hard and produced some brilliant work; most have already been on a school trip or residential; we've enjoyed retreat days, and have prepared and performed assemblies and concerts, worked closely with our chaplains and parish. We thank you, as ever, for your continued support. It is a pleasure working with you and we look forward to continuing our partnership in January. We wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas full of hope, peace, joy and love.

Christmas Masses

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

Please also note that we will be celebrating Mass as a whole school on Tuesday 6th January for the Feast of the Epiphany. As this is a Holy Day of Obligation, we'd be delighted to welcome you to join us; Mass starts at 9.30am in St. Philip's Church.

Attendance this week: **93.1%**

FS2WQ	94%
FS2NM	85.8%
Y1BS	93.8%
Y1JD	92.1%
Y2AN	91%
Y2RT	93.5%
Y3RB	96.6%
Y3GD	93.4%
Y4AS	95.3%
Y4DK	92.8%
Y5BF	99.1%
Y5GC	89.4%
Y6LB	85%
Y6SC	96.5%

Lost Property

Please be reminded to ensure all items of clothing brought into school are clearly marked with your child's name. This includes school uniform, PE kit and waterproofs. Items that are not named cannot be returned and end up on our lost property trolley under the veranda on the large playground. Please do check this trolley if you have missing items.

Staffing Updates

We say goodbye to Miss Canning who leaves our school at the end of this term. I'd like to thank her for all that she has done since joining our school and the impact she has had. We wish her every success in all future endeavours. We also say goodbye to Mrs Wilson, our much-loved Midday Supervisor who has made the decision to retire at the end of this term after spending over 20 years at our school. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Mrs Wilson. My thanks, also, to Miss Grimer who has been teaching in Year 6 since October. I thank her for her continued support and dedication to the class during this time.

Maths Rockstar Day!

On Friday 9th January —the first Friday back — we're holding a special **Maths Rockstar Day** where the children (and staff!) are invited to come into school dressed as a rockstar! The purpose of this is to promote Times Tables Rock Stars, which is an app we subscribe to that develops children's multiplication facts. This app will soon be used by children from Year 2. Maths Rockstars Day will involve celebrating numbers, playing games that boost fluency and confidence with number facts, and holding challenges and competitions to make Maths exciting involving song and music. We can't wait to meet all of our rockstars! As always, please don't buy anything special for the day; instead, be creative and keep it simple!



Word of the Week

When we return from the Christmas holidays, our Word of the Week will be **epiphany** 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 6 January	Liturgy of the Word	Whole School
Tuesday 13 January	LOTW/Mass	Year 2
Tuesday 20 January	LOTW/Mass	Year 1
Tuesday 27 January	LOTW/Mass	Year 6

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

Applying for a Reception place 24-25

For any parents wishing to apply for a Reception class place in our school next September, please be aware that the application window deadline of Thursday 15th January is fast approaching. For Nottinghamshire residents, applications can be made through the [Nottinghamshire County Council Admissions Hub](#). NCC have produced this helpful [Fact Sheet](#), and you can find more information on the [Admissions section](#) of our website too.

If you have a child attending our Nursery, please remember that your child WILL NOT automatically gain a place in main school; you must apply for a place.

Please let us know if you have any problems or questions about applying for a school place. You will be notified on National Offer Day, **16 April 2026**, if your child has been given a place in our school.

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 5 Jan	08:40	School re-opens following the Christmas break		Whole School
Friday 9 Jan	All Day	Maths Rockstar Day!	In Classes	Whole School
Tuesday 20 Jan	During School Day	Other Faiths Roadshow	School Hall	Year 2—Year 6
Wednesday 21 Jan	During School Day	School Trip	Space Centre	Year 1
Friday 30 Jan	09:00—09:30	Virtues Assembly	School Hall	Whole School

Looking ahead, we have two INSET days planned: Thursday 12 February and Friday 13 February; therefore, school will close for pupils at 3.30pm on Wednesday 11 February. Pupils **will return to school on Monday 23rd February at 8.40am**. [Click here](#) to view the full year's Term Dates.

