



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



Newsletter Date:
Friday 9th January, 2026

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Happy New Year!

A very warm welcome back to school. Happy New Year to you all. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026.



Our new term began with a beautiful Mass led by Canon John to mark the feast of the Epiphany. As is traditional in some countries, we followed this Mass with the blessing of each classroom door, marking them with 20+C+M+B+26. The letters C+M+B are the initials of the Latin term: *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* which means May God bless this house. We pray that the classrooms and hallways of our school are filled with love, happiness and Christ's light.

As is always the case at the start of a new term, your child's class teacher will provide you with a copy of this term's *Curriculum Matters* newsletter, which will outline the learning that will take place between now and Easter. Do speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or queries, or if you're able to help in any way.

A new Spelling Scheme: Ready, Steady, Spell

This week, we launched a new and exciting spelling scheme for all children from Year 2 to Year 6 called Ready, Steady, Spell. This scheme will support teachers to deliver spelling lessons that are progressive, systematic and designed to build confident, accurate spellers. The programme offers full National Curriculum coverage through a cyclical model that reinforces and embeds learning over time.

Ready, Steady, Spell provides our children with a consistent framework for the teaching of spelling with engaging resources and memorable Rule Rhymes used from Year 2 to Year 6. The programme supports all learners, including EAL learners and children with special educational needs. .

Many parents often ask how you can support your child at home with spelling. Through the use of this programme, there are seven strategies which are taught in school and can also be easily used to support the learning of spellings at home. The strategies are: *syll-a-beat*, *phonic sound*, *rule rhyme*, *picture it*, *word build*, *wrong say right spell*, and *tricky bit*. These strategies replace the previous *Look, Cover, Write, Check* method which research shows to be less effective. Please see the [Home Support Booklet](#) available to view on our website which will help you understand the new format for weekly spelling lists and provide details of each of the seven strategies and how you can use these to support your child's learning of spellings. We hope you find this new approach provides you with greater support for helping your child.

Attendance this week: 97.3%	
FS2WQ	98.7%
FS2NM	99.1%
Y1BS	100%
Y1JD	93.8%
Y2AN	96.6%
Y2RT	99.2%
Y3RB	91.8%
Y3GD	96.1%
Y4AS	99.2%
Y4DK	95.3%
Y5BF	96.9%
Y5GC	99.6%
Y6LB	97.3%
Y6SC	99.2%



Baby news!

I'm delighted to share with you the wonderful news that our Year 1 teacher Mr Dyson and his wife welcomed a baby girl into their lives during the Christmas holidays. Welcome to the world, Juniper who weighed a very healthy 7 pounds 3 ounces. Huge congratulations to the family.



Maths Rockstar Day!

Due to school being closed today because of the adverse weather conditions, we've rescheduled our Maths Rockstar Day for Friday 16th January. I know just how excited the children (and staff!) are 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. Maths Rockstars Day will involve celebrating numbers, playing games that boost fluency and confident 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

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **baptism** which will form the basis of our acts of collective worship throughout the week.

Baptism

Liturgy of the Word/Mass

Date	Type of Service	Who's Involved?
Tuesday 13 January	Mass	Year 2
Tuesday 20 January	Mass	Year 1
Tuesday 27 January	Mass	Year 6
Tuesday 3 February	Liturgy of the Word	Year 5

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

LAST CHANCE: Applying for a Reception place 26-27

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 nearly here**. 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.

Pupil Premium Grant

For those of you unaware, the government provides a *Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)* for eligible families which provides additional money for schools to use to improve educational outcomes for our children. Not only does PPG funding help schools, but it also benefits parents too as it entitles you to:

- Free school meals;
- Free milk;
- Trips and residential visits subsidised where 50% of costs are paid by school;
- Participation in after school clubs subsidised by 50%;

Checking your eligibility is easy and takes just a couple of minutes. Login to [Nottinghamshire County Council's SynergyHub](#), simply enter your National Insurance Number, Date of Birth along with your child's details and the system will inform you if you are eligible. The Local Authority will then inform school which will enable us to offer you the above subsidies. Children attending maintained nurseries (which ours is) can also qualify. More information about Pupil Premium can be found [here](#). If you need any further help, please don't hesitate to ask. And, like all other personal data, please be assured that being in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant is never shared.

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?
Friday 16 Jan	During School Day	Maths Rockstar Day		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
Friday 6 February	9.00am—9.30am	Come & See Assembly	School Hall	Year 1 & Year 2
Monday 23—25 February		Residential Visit	The Briars	Year 6
Friday 27 February	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.