



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



Newsletter Date:
Friday 23rd January, 2026

St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

Religion & Belief Roadshow

We were delighted to welcome the community of the St. Philip's Centre from Leicester into our school on Tuesday 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.

A new Spelling Scheme: Ready, Steady, Spell

In case you missed the last couple of Newsletters, we have launched a new, exciting spelling scheme for all children from Year 2 to Year 6 called Ready, Steady, Spell. This scheme supports 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%**

FS2WQ	96.7%
FS2NM	93.6%
Y1BS	98.5%
Y1JD	94.3%
Y2AN	99.3%
Y2RT	97.3%
Y3RB	98.8%
Y3JD	97.2%
Y4AS	96.6%
Y4DK	92.5%
Y5BF	97.8%
Y5GC	97.8%
Y6LB	98.4%
Y6GS	96.9%



School Dinners

Please be reminded of the excellent school meals that are freshly prepared and served daily by our wonderful kitchen team. Our school meals form part of a healthy and balanced diet with several options for children to choose from each day. A copy of this term's delicious menu can be found [here](#).



If you think your child may be eligible for a Free School Meal, please [click here](#).

[Note: Nottingham County Council provide this service].

For children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2, school meals are completely free of charge. For children in Year 3 to Year 6, the cost is £2.60 each day unless eligible for a free school meal through pupil premium funding. School meals can be paid for on Arbor.

It's always worth checking if you're eligible for pupil premium funding. The process is quick and easy too. All you need is your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number, your surname and your date of birth. If eligible, school will be able to support you in other ways, for example by heavily subsidising the cost of trips and visits, including residential visits.

Word of the Week

Next week, our Word of the Week will be **scripture** 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 27 January	Mass	Year 6
Tuesday 3 February	Liturgy of the Word	Year 5
Tuesday 10 February	Mass	Year 4

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

Lime Trees Wrap Around Care & After School Clubs

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](#). We are excited to confirm that after Easter, The Lime Trees will move from the cabin into our Dining Room. Not only will this make dropping off and collecting easier, but we're also confident that it will improve the experience for our children too.

Please also note that there are some spaces left in this term's After School clubs. We have a range of clubs available for children in Key Stage 1 and 2 from football, to dodgeball, nature studies to gymnastics. Please see Class Dojo for all the details.



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.

Rachel's Story

One of our parents, Rachel (Ronnie & Roman's Mum) has set herself the challenge of completing the Lake District 100km run. The aim is to run this mammoth distance in just one day! Rachel will donate all proceeds to a charity called [Children Heard & Seen](#) who are committed to giving children with a parent in prison the best start in life.

Rachel has set up a *Just Giving* page for the event. If you're able to donate, she would massively appreciate this. [All the details can be found here](#). Thanks so much in advance for your support. Good luck, Rachel!

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 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.