



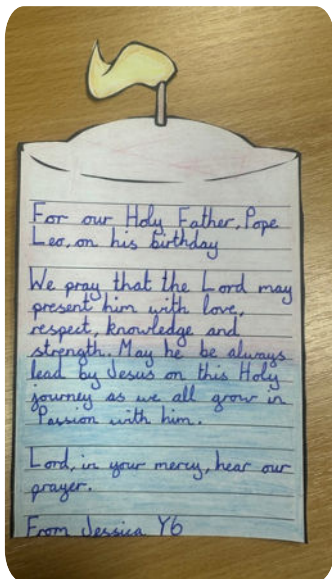
18th September 2026

NEWSLETTER

At St Philomena's, We Share the Love of God



Jeans for Genes Day



This week, we celebrated the birthday of Pope Leo XIV. We were reminded of the special role of the Holy Father as the shepherd of the Catholic Church and prayed for him as he continues his ministry of serving the Church and bringing Christ's message of peace and hope to the world. The children wrote birthday cards and prayers for Pope Leo, sharing their intentions and asking God to bless him with wisdom, strength and joy. We were delighted to post our cards to the Vatican as a special birthday gift from our school community.



Our Subject Ambassadors have been championing pupil voice across the curriculum this week. They have been discussing what they enjoy about their subject, sharing their knowledge and skills, and reflecting on what makes learning in their subject successful. Ambassadors have also been looking through children's books, celebrating examples of strong work and considering how teaching and learning could be developed further. These conversations are helping us to understand pupils' experiences of the curriculum and ensure that their views contribute meaningfully to our ongoing improvement.

Day of Democracy

This week, we celebrated Democracy Day with debates, campaign posters and a lot of voting! Everyone had the chance to share their ideas, listen to different opinions and have their say. It was a fun and exciting way to learn the British Value democracy!



Jeans for Genes

It was lovely to see so many children wearing their jeans for Jeans for Genes Day. The children learned about genetic disorders and the challenges some children may face. They also reflected on the importance of kindness, compassion and understanding, and how we can support and care for others. Our prefects ran a competition to design a pair of jeans. Well done to the winners: Mia and Maks in Year 4!



School Newspaper

It has been lovely to see so many budding journalists getting involved with our school newspaper. Our young reporters have been busy interviewing members of the school community and finding interesting stories to share. I was lucky enough to be interviewed by one of our journalists, and I'm looking forward to reading the finished article!



Garden Party

It was a pleasure to see so many of our children and families at the St James Garden Party and Fun Run this week. The rain did little to dampen spirits, with the party moving indoors while the BBQ bravely continued outside. It was a wonderful community afternoon, and a delight to see so many families enjoying the occasion together.



Safeguarding

Mobile phones can present safeguarding risks and we therefore ask that children do not bring mobile phones into school unless they need one for their journey and have the appropriate permissions. In these circumstances, phones must be switched off before entering the school gate remain switched off and out of use until children have left the school site. Phones must be given to an adult once in class. If your child does not walk to and from school independently, they must not bring a mobile phone to school at any time.





Stewardship

Our Green Team has been putting Catholic stewardship into action this week, litter picking around the school grounds and helping to care for our environment. By looking after our school and keeping it clean, the children are showing what it means to be good stewards of God's wonderful creation.



Coat Share

Our Faith Groups have been thinking about how we can support our community. This week, they launched The Coat Share in the playground. Families are welcome to take a coat if they need one and can donate coats if no longer needed. By sharing what we have and giving pre loved coats a new home, we are putting Catholic Social Teaching into action while making a positive choice for sustainability.



Uniform

Our Mini Menas have been busy refreshing the uniform cupboard in the purple shed. Families are welcome to take anything they need or leave any good quality uniform they no longer require. A simple way to share, reuse and support our school community.

Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the importance of generosity. In the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, Jesus tells of a landowner who pays all his workers the same, despite them working for different lengths of time. Those who worked all day question why the latecomers received equal pay. The landowner says, "Are you envious because I am generous?" This reminds us that God's love and generosity are freely given. They are not rewards that we earn by doing more than others. The parable challenges us to recognise God's goodness, trust in His generosity and learn to be generous ourselves.

We can reflect on generosity in our own lives:

- Do I appreciate God's generosity?
- Am I generous when others receive more than I do?
- How can I show generosity this week?



We are proud of the children who have demonstrated generosity this week!



A Note on Community from the Head Boy and Head Girl

We can serve our school community in many ways. Some of us are Eco Warriors, Subject Ambassadors, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Prefects, House Captains or Sports Ambassadors.

But we can all make a difference:

- Help someone who is struggling.
- Look after God's creation—don't litter.
- Be kind and include others.

Together, we can build a caring, respectful school community.

Sofia, Head Girl

We need to help others in our community by being kind, generous and compassionate.

If you are the person who needs help, remember to help yourself too. If someone is lonely, be a friend. If someone is hungry, share your food. If someone is struggling, offer your support.

Go forth with kindness, compassion and the love of God, and let us make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

Liam, Head Boy

School Values

This week, we have been celebrating **excellence** in handwriting across the school. Children have been working hard on neat presentation and careful letter formation, with many lovely examples of beautiful writing. In a world where so much is typed, handwriting remains an important skill, and we are very proud of the care our children are taking with their work.

Class	Excellence	Respect	Community
Year R	Nathaniel	James	Rosa
Year 1	Bea	Karis	Arber
Year 2	Jasper	Nithushika	Alissia
Year 3	Christopher	Kairo	Teddy
Year 4	Tymon	Antonio	Rowen
Year 5	Sandra	Rohan	Ollie
Year 6	Elisei	Sofia M	Milan

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Days

Wednesday 26 August 2026

Thursday 27 August 2026

Friday 28 August 2026

Bank Holiday

Monday 31 August 2026

First Day of Term

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Half-Term

Monday 19 October – Friday 30 October 2026

Back to School

Monday 2 November 2026

Last Day of Term

Friday 18 December 2026

Spring Term 2027

First Day of Term

Monday 4 January 2027

Half-Term

Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027

Back to School

Monday 22 February 2027

Last Day of Term

Thursday 25 March 2027

Easter Bank Holidays

Good Friday: Friday 26 March 2027

Easter Monday: Monday 29 March 2027

Summer Term 2027

First Day of Term

Monday 12 April 2027

May Bank Holiday

Monday 3 May 2027

Half-Term

Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027

Back to School

Monday 7 June 2027

Last Day of Term

Wednesday 21 July 2027

INSET Days

Thursday 22 July 2027

Friday 23 July 2027



"Pupils are happy, confident and enjoy school life, which is reflected in attendance figures that are well above the national average."
Catholic School Inspectorate

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (Occasions)
YEAR R	100	0
YEAR 1	100	5
YEAR 2	99	0
YEAR 3	100	2
YEAR 4	99	1
YEAR 5	99	0
YEAR 6	99	0
Overall Weekly Attendance: 99.5%		

Gates Open: 8.45am
School Begins: 8:50am
Gates Lock: 9:00am

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- 10 September – Whole School Mass in Church
- 15 September – International Day of Democracy
- 14 September – Jeans for Genes Day
- 14 September – Secondary Transfer Meeting
- 21 September – International Day of Peace
- 21 September – Fairtrade Fortnight
- 23 September – PTA AGM
- 23 September – Phonics Meeting for Reception
- 25 September – Ambassadors to Mass at the Cathedral
- 25 September – Deadline for Holy Communion applications.

OCTOBER

- 1 October – Rosary Week
- 1 October – National Poetry Day
- 1–31 October – Black History Month
- 2 October – Harvest Festival
- 2 October – CAFOD Family Fast Day
- 4 October – Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi
- 5 October – St Francis Day in EYFS class
- 9 October – Year 3 Assembly and Stone Age Day
- 10 October – World Mental Health Day
- 14 October – Y3 to Natural History Museum
- 16 October – Year 5 Assembly
- 14 October – Grandparents' Tea Party

NOVEMBER

- 23 November – UK Parliament Week
- 24 November – School Council to Parliament
- 11 November – Remembrance Day
- 13 November – Children in Need
- 16 November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 November – Odd Socks Day

DECEMBER

- 2 December – EYFS Nativity
- 16 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- **17th December** – KS2 Carol Concert in Church
- 9 December – KS1 Nativity
- 15 December – Steps in Faith returned to School
- 18 December – End of Term

