



25th September 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



PTA Prizes



We held our PTA AGM this week. All families automatically become members of the PTA when joining the school, and we are very grateful to those who attended the meeting to represent their classes and support the PTA. It was a lovely opportunity for families to come together, share ideas and discuss fundraising plans for the year ahead. The PTA planned a Christmas Shopping Event, Cultural Café and Christmas Fair for the months ahead. We look forward to bringing our school community together for these special events.



We were delighted to welcome families to our Phonics Meeting this week, where we shared an insight into how phonics is taught in school and explored ways in which families can support their children's reading journey at home. We hope families found the session useful and informative, and that it provided practical guidance to support children's continued progress in reading.



Next week, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Friday 2 October at 10.00am. The service will be an opportunity for our school community to come together in thanksgiving and celebrate the harvest. Families are warmly invited to attend. From Monday, we will be collecting donations for our local food bank. A collection point will be available in the Main Reception, and we would be very grateful for any non-perishable food items that families are able to donate.

Fairtrade Week

During Fairtrade Week, we learnt more about where the food and products we use every day come from and why it is important to make fair and ethical choices. We explored how Fairtrade helps farmers and workers around the world to receive a fairer price for what they produce and supports communities to build a better future.

We particularly enjoyed learning about the people behind the products we buy and thinking about how our choices can make a difference. Fair Trade Week reminded us that even small choices, such as choosing Fairtrade products, can help us to stand in solidarity with people around the world and make a positive difference.

Children in Year 3 worked on a beautiful collage of Jesus using fairtrade tea and coffee. It looked, and smelt, amazing!



Day of Peace

On Peace Day, we began the day with a period of sacred silence, giving everyone time to be still, reflect and pray for peace in our school, our communities and around the world. It was a meaningful way to start the day and helped us to think about how we can each be peacemakers.

During the day, children took part in activities in class inspired by CAFOD's work for peace. Year 4 crafted doves with messages of peace to inspire others to choose kindness, understanding and compassion. They thought about children and families around the world who are affected by conflict and how important it is to stand alongside people who are suffering.

The day reminded us that peace is not just about the absence of fighting. It is about making sure that everyone feels safe, valued, respected and loved. As a school, we want to continue being people of peace and putting our faith into action through the way we treat one another.



Safeguarding



Please help us keep all our children safe by not driving, cycling or scooting up the school drive. We kindly ask parents and carers to park nearby and walk when dropping off or collecting children, rather than driving onto the school driveway. We also ask that children do not cycle or scoot up the drive. This helps to ensure that everyone can enter and leave the school safely, without the risk of vehicles or bikes. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe environment for all our families.



New Term Mass

The Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Head Teacher prefects were honoured to attend the Beginning of Year Mass at the cathedral, marking the start of the new academic year in a spirit of faith, reflection and community. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Wilson, and the occasion provided a meaningful opportunity for our student leaders to come together with members of the wider school and diocesan community, to pray for the year ahead and to reflect on the responsibilities and opportunities that come with their leadership roles. We are grateful to Mrs Baker who accompanied us on the trip to represent the governing body.

Solidarity

Our gardening club harvested tomatoes and used them to make a healthy recipe to share with others. This was a wonderful opportunity to put solidarity into action, as the children worked together, supported one another and shared the fruits of their hard work.

First Holy Communion

If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join our Holy Communion Class, please email the church office as the deadline is **TODAY**.

If you would like your child to be baptised, please also get in touch. We would be delighted to welcome your family and support your child as they take these special steps in their faith journey.

Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that our actions often speak louder than our words. In the Parable of the Two Sons, Jesus tells of a father who asks his two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first says no, but later changes his mind and goes. The second says yes, but does not go. Jesus asks which son did his father's will. The answer is the first.

This reminds us that God does not expect us to be perfect. We may sometimes make the wrong choice, say no, or get things wrong, but we always have the opportunity to change our hearts and choose what is right. What matters is not simply what we say, but how we live out our faith through our actions.

We can reflect on integrity in our own lives:

- Do our actions reflect the things we say?
- Do we keep the promises we make to God?



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



A Note on Lunch Time from the Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl

I enjoy having a packed lunch because I am quite a picky eater, so I like bringing my favourite foods to school. At lunchtime, we can sit with our friends and chat while we eat. We have plenty of time to finish our lunch and still go outside to play. Lunchtime is a relaxing and sociable part of our school day, and I love catching up with my friends and having fun together. There are so many lunchtime clubs to choose from and I enjoy playing with children from other year groups and making new friends. I always look forward to lunchtime!

Keira, Deputy Head Girl

I like having school dinners because there are lots of tasty meals to choose from. We are allowed to sit with our friends, which makes lunchtime fun and sociable. There is plenty of time to enjoy our food without rushing and still have lots of time to play outside afterwards. Lunchtime is a great chance to relax, play sports and have fun with our friends between lessons. I enjoy going to the Chaplaincy Corner and taking part in football club. I think lunchtime is the best part of the school day!

Teddy, Deputy Head Boy

School Values

This week, we have been focusing on respect, with a particular emphasis on good manners. It has been wonderful to see so many examples of beautiful manners across our school, with children remembering to use polite words such as “please” and “thank you,” wishing one another “good morning,” holding doors open for others, and listening attentively during conversations.

It is lovely to see our children growing into such polite, thoughtful and considerate young people, and we are very proud of the way they are putting good manners into practice each day.

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



Just 10 minutes late each day amounts to 50 minutes of lost learning each week.

Please aim to be on the playground by 8.50am, ready for the bell, so that every child can start their day positively and make the most of learning time.

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (Occasions)
YEAR R	97	0
YEAR 1	99	2
YEAR 2	98	0
YEAR 3	94	0
YEAR 4	99	3
YEAR 5	99	3
YEAR 6	95	0
Overall Weekly Attendance: 97.2%		

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.

NOVEMBER

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

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
- 14 October – Grandparents' Tea Party
- 16 October – Year 5 Assembly

DECEMBER

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

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cultural Café 13 November | 3:30pm

Enjoy delicious food and drinks from around the world while children choose Christmas gifts for friends and family and wrap them ready for Christmas.

Christmas Fair 5 December | 2:00pm

Join us for our Christmas Fair, with each class hosting its own festive stall. Come along, enjoy the afternoon and support our school!