



2nd October 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



Harvest Festival

This week, we celebrated Harvest with a beautiful and prayerful gathering, featuring readings, bidding prayers, hymns and songs. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the many blessings we have received, and on our responsibility to share those blessings with others.

We were overwhelmed by the extraordinary generosity of our community. Every class contributed a remarkable amount of food to our local food bank, who were extremely grateful for the generous donation. It is a wonderful reminder that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

A special congratulations to Year 4, who collected the most food and will therefore have the opportunity to wear their own clothes on the final day of term! Of course, the greatest reward is knowing that these generous donations will make a real difference to people in our local community.

Thank you to all our families for supporting our Harvest collection and for helping us to nurture our children in the spirit of generosity, compassion and service. Through acts such as these, we show our children what it truly means to be called to serve. We are truly blessed to have such a generous community.



Happy Birthday, Mr Nourish!

This week, we celebrated the birthday of Mr Nourish, the much loved mascot of our catering team!

Our fabulous chefs marked the occasion with a special birthday lunch for the children, complete with a very delicious cake. Of course, no birthday would be complete without singing Happy Birthday to Mr Nourish!

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our incredible catering team and say a huge thank you for all that they do. Every day, they prepare and serve fresh, nutritious meals for over 200 children, all cooked on site, served on time and most importantly, with a smile!

We're so grateful for their hard work, ensuring our children have plenty of tasty choices and a healthy, enjoyable lunch each day. Happy Birthday, Mr Nourish, and a huge thank you to our amazing catering team!



Ten:Ten
Resources



Religious and Health Education

As a Catholic school, we teach RHE within our Catholic understanding of the dignity of every person, the value of relationships and the importance of making wise and responsible choices. This includes discernment: learning to recognise what is true, good and beautiful and what supports genuine human flourishing.

We follow the Ten Ten programme of study which has updated its primary programme in response to the 2026 RHE changes, with the statutory content incorporated into the core programme.

We would like parents to be informed about what their children are learning and to have opportunities to continue conversations about the curriculum at home. You can access our RHE content using the information below:

Ten Ten Parent Portal

Username: st-phils-br5

Password: bubble-543

Link:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Safeguarding

Swiggle is a child friendly search engine provided by the Grid for Learning. It is free to use and contains no adverts, making it a safer and more focused search experience for children. Swiggle includes a range of useful features, including reporting tools, a screen-cover widget, a search blocker and more. It works on tablets and mobile devices and prioritises educational results. If you would like to find out more about what Swiggle has to offer, please follow the link below:

<https://swiggle.org.uk>



CAFOD Family Fast Day

CAFOD Family Fast Day was especially poignant this year, as we celebrated Harvest on the same day with such an abundance of food. We took time to reflect on those who do not have enough and considered how we can support others, not only through charity and giving, but also through our everyday actions, choices and kindness.

We reflected on the Fast Day challenge, choosing to fast from unkind words and thoughts and making an effort to speak with kindness and respect. It was a wonderful reminder that our words and actions can make a positive difference, and that we are called to care for and support those around us, especially those who are less fortunate.



Rosary

As we begin October, the Month of the Rosary, we have been encouraging children to discover and pray this beautiful Catholic prayer in a special way across our school.

Classes have had opportunities to pray the Rosary together and to reflect on the different mysteries. Children can also spend time in prayer with our chaplains in the Prayer corner, or make use of the prayer and reflection areas around school for a moment of quiet and contemplation.

Throughout the month, we will continue to create opportunities for children to come together in prayer and to deepen their understanding of the Rosary and its place in our Catholic faith. Children who have a Rosary at home are welcome to bring it into school and use it during these opportunities.



Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that God entrusts us with responsibilities and expects us to use them well. In the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, Jesus tells of a landowner who gives his vineyard to tenants to care for. When the time comes, the tenants refuse to give the owner what is rightfully his and reject those he sends to them.

This reminds us that God gives each of us gifts, opportunities and responsibilities. We are called to use them wisely, treat others with respect and show our faith through our actions. What matters is not simply what we are given, but what we do with it.

We can reflect on responsibility in our own lives:
Do we take responsibility for our actions?
Do we use the gifts God has given us to help others?



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



A Note on Morning Break from the Head Boy and Head Girl

Sofia, Head Girl

In our playground, we have lots of activities to choose from. Our sports ambassadors have fun games every day, so if you are lonely, there is always something to do. If you don't want to join in, you can play sports with your friends, draw, chat, or go on the trim trail. The teachers will play with you too. I enjoy playtime.

Liam, Head Boy

When someone is feeling lonely, our job is to help them. We can do lots of things to make them feel happier, such as cheering them up, telling them jokes, showing kindness and playing with them. Our wellbeing ambassadors can also spend time with children who are feeling lonely and make sure they know they are not alone. As the head of school council, I would like to think about getting more equipment for playtime, so there are even more fun activities for everyone to enjoy. We want our playground to be a happy and welcoming place where everyone can have fun, make friends and feel included.

School Values

This week, we have been focusing on community, with a particular emphasis on making sure everyone feels welcome and included on the playground. It has been wonderful to see children inviting others to join their games, making space for new friends, taking turns and thinking carefully about how others might be feeling. We have seen many lovely examples of children noticing when someone is on their own and making the kind choice to include them.

It is wonderful to see our children developing such a strong sense of community and understanding that everyone should feel valued, included and part of our school family. We are very proud of the kindness and thoughtfulness they are showing 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	96	3
YEAR 1	96	2
YEAR 2	94	1
YEAR 3	97	0
YEAR 4	96	2
YEAR 5	97	1
YEAR 6	98	2
Overall Weekly Attendance: 96.3%		

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
- 13 October – Y3 to Natural History Museum
- 14 October – Grandparents' Tea Party
- 14 October – EYFS Food Tasting
- 16 October – Year 5 Assembly

NOVEMBER

- 1 November – All Saints Day
- 11 November – Remembrance Day
- 13 November – Children in Need
- 14 November – Y5 and Y6 Cross Country
- 16 November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 November – Odd Socks Day
- 23 November – UK Parliament Week
- 23 November – EYFS to St Andrews
- 24 November – School Council to Parliament

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

Toy Story Movie Night 15 October | 3:30pm

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!