



# St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

## **Newsletter 21 November 2025**

### **Autumn Term**

#### **Southwark Catholic Headteacher's Conference**

I had the privilege of attending the above on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

We had some very interesting speakers sharing lots of information on the 'positive' potential of AI in education, updates on the renewed Ofsted framework and an inspirational session with Archbishop John Wilson.

The Archbishop celebrated Mass on Thursday with many of the priests in our Diocese and Canon Victor Darlington.

It was wonderful to have the time to work alongside so many headteacher colleagues and to have the time to reflect on the significant, spiritual role of our individual schools.

#### **French Lesson**

Thank you to Mr Luximon for coming in to Year 6 this week to teach the children French.



#### **Music Mark Award**

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Music Mark Award! We are so very proud of the work we do to promote sustainability and stewardship of God's creation in school. This award is a wonderful celebration of our school community and the dedication, talent, and enthusiasm of our staff and children, whose musical achievements, both in and out of the classroom, continue to inspire and uplift us all.

<https://conference.musicmark.org.uk/the-music-mark-awards/>

## **2025**

We are pleased to bring you our 2025 Music Mark Award winners! A panel of judges scored the nominations, made up of representatives from the award sponsors, our Board of Trustees and the Music Mark staff team.

#### **This Is Not A Rehearsal Sustainability Award**

Linked to our recent This Is Not A Rehearsal campaign, this award celebrates members tackling the climate crisis through music education. We're looking to highlight artistic responses, creative leadership, and innovative practices that inspire change and reflect environmental consciousness across the sector.

**And the winner is... Stacey Anderson, St Philomena's CP School**

The school uses music to promote climate action and inclusion, combining creative performance with sustainability, free tuition, reused instruments, and community engagement to inspire real change.

#### **Shortlisted Candidates:**

- Millers Music
- Orchestras Live, Sinfonia Viva, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Music Service

### Year 4 Assembly

Year 4's Autumn Class assembly was all about the Romans. We shared the latin names for the rooms of a Roman villa, the equipment and weapons of a Roman soldier, a dive into the inventions the Romans left us and a play about Romulus and Remus the founders of Rome. Year 4 performed excellent and did a great job of sharing their learning.



### Orpington Library

our Pictures Alive session at Orpington Library which takes place next Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 4-5pm. We are celebrating Empathy Action Month and have some great stories to read and Empathy glasses to make!

To book parents/carers just need to click here:  
<https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Pictures Alive at Orpington Library



Come along and listen to these amazing stories to celebrate:  
Empathy Action Month  
Monday 24th November  
4-5pm  
Age: 4-7s with parent/carers  
To book contact: <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>



### Enterprise Cake and Cookie Sale – Year 3

This week, Year 3 organised a Winter Bar selling cakes and cookies as part of their financial education. The children worked hard costing ingredients, calculating profit margins, and learning about money management. We are very grateful to our school community for supporting this sale. Next week, the children will be visiting Metro Bank to continue their financial education and will be using the proceeds from the sale to buy Christmas gifts for each other, sharing in the joy of giving as we prepare for Advent.



### Prayers

In November, we remember and pray for the souls of our loved ones. If someone in your family has passed away, we warmly invite your child to add their name to our prayer jar. We will hold them in our prayers throughout the month.



### Assembly Dates

Assemblies start at 10.00am

Reception/EYFS – Nativity

11.12.25

**KS1 Nativity– 16.12.25**

Year 6 – 27.11.25

### Jubilee Celebration Day

Today, we celebrated **Jubilee Celebration Day** as this special year comes to an end. It was a beautiful day of thanksgiving, reflection, and hope. Our school community came together to remember our commitment as *Pilgrims of Hope*, living out our faith by working for justice, love, and peace. Year Two wrote postcards of hope, while Year Three and Year Five joined together on the playground for a reflective pilgrimage. During the pilgrimage, the children walked together in prayer and contemplation, thinking about the people they can help, the kindness they can show, and the ways they can live out their faith in everyday life.

As we look back on this Jubilee year, we are inspired by our pledge to stand in solidarity with people around the world, especially those who are most vulnerable. We also reflected on the good work we have done together, from our Lent Walk and Family Fast Day to many other acts of kindness and service that go beyond fundraising.



### Parent Helper

Are any parents/carers able to weld back together a leg that has broken off the stainless steel rack that fits in the kitchen dishwasher.



### ADVANCE NOTICE REGARDING GREEN ROOM CLUB CLOSURE

Our Green Room Club (GRC) After School Childcare Facility

### **WILL NOT BE OPEN**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026** (3.20-5.45pm)

due to staff training.

Please make alternate provision should you require after school care on that day.

### **We apologise for any inconvenience caused.**

Breakfast Club will be open as usual.

### **Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025:**

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	90	1
Year 1	99	2
Year 2	98	0
Year 3	98	1
Year 4	98	0
Year 5	98	5
Year 6	98	0

Year 1 have won again this week. Well done!

### **League Table**

Year	No. of Wins
Reception	0
Year 1	2
Year 2	2
Year 3	3
Year 4	0
Year 5	1
Year 6	1

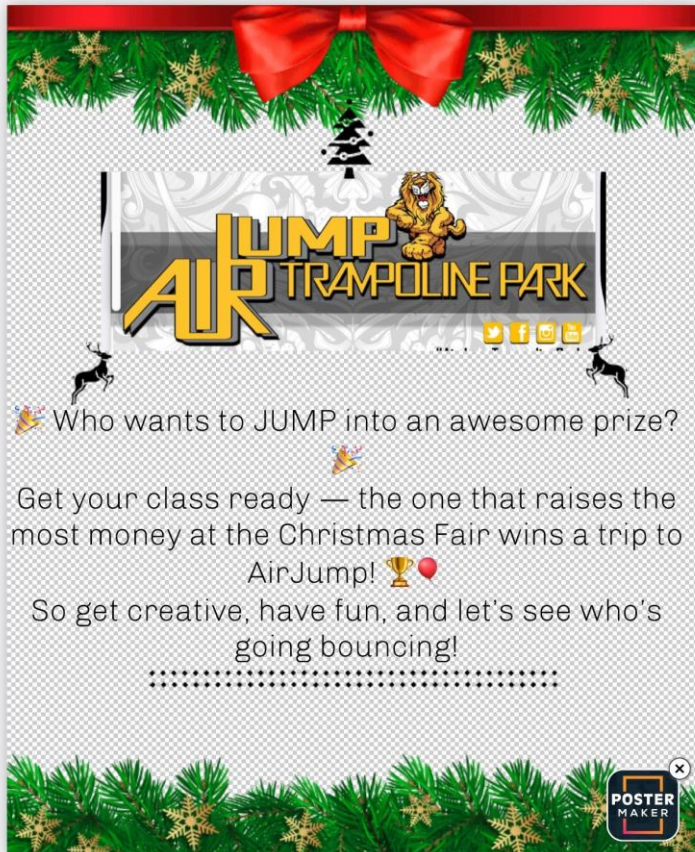
**Weeks in competition: 9 (full weeks only)**

**OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 98.7%**



## PTA Information

Please can you make sure you have let Mrs Miller know about your class stall for the Christmas Fair.



## PTA Dates to remember

Friday 28 November - PTA own Clothes Day for a chocolate donation

Saturday 6 December – Christmas Fair

Thursday 11 December – School PTA Disco  
details to follow

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Veronica Maher  
Head Teacher



### ACADEMIC YEARS 2025 - 2026

#### **Autumn Term 2025**

##### **Last day of term**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### **Spring Term 2026**

##### **First day of term**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

##### **Half-term**

16.02.26 – 20.02.26

##### **Back to school**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

##### **Last day of term**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### **Summer Term 2026**

##### **First day of term**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

##### ***Bank Holiday***

***Monday 4th May 2026***

##### **Half-term**

25.05.26– 29.05.2026

##### **Back to school**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

##### **Last day of term**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**INSET DAYS Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**