



# St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

## Newsletter – 19 January 2024

### Spring Term

#### Young Voices

It was an absolute delight to join our school choir for the evening event of Young Voices at the O2 on Monday. To hear over eight thousand children singing together was magical but even better was being amongst the energy of our St Philomena's children. They didn't stop singing and dancing !

Thank you to Mrs Anderson for preparing the children and organising their participation and to all the parents who gave a up a whole day AND evening to help with the children. I'm hoping we'll do it again next year...

*They experienced a three hour rehearsal with a live band, and learnt to sing as one collective voice. Despite the lengthy rehearsal, Choir remained enthusiastic and energised for our amazing evening concert. Choir showed excellent commitment and dedication to learning so many songs, dances and even sign language! We were grateful for the fantastic support shown by parents and carers who came to the O2, and we hope you enjoyed the concert. Mrs Anderson Choir Lead*



#### Phonics Achievement

We were very proud to receive the attached letter from Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools, this week. Our success in teaching children to read was also highlighted in our Ofsted inspection in June of 2023.

Well done to our amazing teachers and teaching assistants for delivering phonics so effectively, to our children for engaging so well and to parents and carers for supporting reading at home.



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP  
Minister for Schools

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Miss Veronica Maher  
St Philomena's Primary School  
Kent  
Chelsfield Road  
Orpington  
BR5 4DR

08 January 2024

*Miss Maher*

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 97 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Philomena's Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

*Damian Hinds*

Damian Hinds  
Minister for Schools

### Whole School Mass

Thanks again to Ms Omilegan for organising a beautiful Mass yesterday, celebrated in school by Father Cyriacus. We asked for God's blessings on our school community for the year ahead. As always, the children participated in a joyful and prayerful way.

### Gruffalo Hunt

This week Reception went on a very exciting Gruffalo hunt. They received a letter with a map telling them that a large egg belonging to the Gruffalo had been found in a field. The children used their magnifying glasses to follow the map and find some clues and they managed to find the egg. Inside was a baby Gruffalo! They took the baby Gruffalo back to school so that they could look after it.

### Pupil of the Week

*Congratulations to this week's winners!*

*Winners will receive their certificates on Monday. We did not have assembly this morning as the Hall was occupied by the photographers.*

*Reception - Stephanie*

*Year 1 - Niky*

*Year 2 - David*

*Year 3 - Sebastian*

*Year 4 - Fiona*

*Year 5 - Cesco*

*Year 6 - Joshua*



### School Uniform Reminder

During this period of cold weather, we are more than happy for boys to wear jogging bottoms OVER their school shorts. These are to be removed once indoors. Please ensure that all boys have school shorts on underneath in line with our Uniform Policy. Thank you.



## **Numbers Day**

We celebrated Number Day by playing a range of games, baking numeral cookies, competing to build the tallest tower, creating number art, eating a special lunch, and dressing for digits! The children looked amazing: a huge thankyou to parents and carers for supporting this event.

Our Y6 Math prefects Dante and Callum did an outstanding job of organising and running a range of activities and were well supported by our fantastic Maths Ambassadors. After much deliberation, they awarded the following medals for costumes:

### **Infants:**

Gold: Vincent and Reuben

Silver: Tymon and Jason

Bronze: Amber

### **Juniors**

Gold: Arya

Silver: Gabriella

Bronze: Emily

**Runners Up:** Amy, Nicole, Zanna, Zehira, Lila-Rain, Ava-Joy.

We hope the children enjoyed Numbers Day!

Mrs Anderson

Maths Lead



## TERM DATES

### Attendance Race 2023- 2024

**Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 :**

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	95	4
Year 1	96	1
Year 2	99	0
Year 3	99	2
Year 4	100	0
Year 5	99	1
Year 6	98	0

Year 4 have won the first week of 2024. Year 4 have been in on time every day - Well done !

## TERM DATES

### League Table

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

**Weeks in competition: 13 (full weeks only)**

**OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 98.2%**

### Assemblies

Reception	29.02.24
Year 1	18.03.24
Year 2	12.02.24
Year 3	26.02.24
Year 4	04.03.24
Year 5	25.03.24
Year 6	11.03.24

### Parent Teacher Meetings

Monday 26/Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Details to follow shortly

### **Spring Term 2024**

Half-term 12.02.24 – 16.02.24  
Last day of term Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **Summer Term 2024:**

First day of term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **Bank Holiday**

Half-term 27.05.24 – 31.05.2024

Last day of term Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### **INSET DAYS**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

## **ACADEMIC YEARS 2024 - 2025**

### **Autumn Term 2023:**

#### **INSET DAYS:**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

First day back: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Half-term 21.10.21 – 1.11.24

Last day of term Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Spring Term 2025:**

First day of term Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Half-term 17.02.25 – 21.02.25

Last day of term Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### **Summer Term 2025:**

First day of term Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

### **Bank Holiday**

Half-term 26.05.25 – 30.05.2025

Last day of term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### **INSET DAYS**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Veronica Maher  
Head Teacher

