



11th September 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and participation across our enrichment activities this week! Our Ballet Club had its first session, and it was lovely to see the children learning new skills and developing their confidence. Our first French club also took place, with a focus on colours, and the children produced some fantastic artwork while putting their new vocabulary into practice.



Our Ukulele Club has expanded this week, and it has been wonderful to welcome so many new members. The children are enjoying making music together and are beginning to learn how to read guitar tabs. Choir has been busy rehearsing in preparation for our upcoming performance at the 02, and our Cross Country team have been practising hard ahead of their next competition in October.



We have launched our new school newspaper, and we are looking forward to seeing our budding journalists writing articles and sharing the exciting things happening across our school. It is wonderful to see so many children embracing our enrichment opportunities, and we hope they continue to enjoy trying new things and developing their interests throughout the school year.

Gardening Club

Our Gardening Club have been busy gathering the wonderful produce they have grown and used it to make a delicious soup. Well done to everyone for their hard work.



House Captains

Our House Captains organised an exciting times tables competition. Congratulations to Aylesford, who were our winners! Their House Captain answered over 100 questions in just 60 seconds – an amazing achievement. We are so proud of everyone who took part and showed such wonderful determination and team spirit.



Secondary Transfer Meeting

This will take place on 14th September for parents in Year 6 at 3pm.

School Council

Our School Council met this week, chaired by our Head Boy and Head Girl. It was a positive meeting, with pupil representatives sharing their ideas, raising important issues and discussing ways in which we can continue to strengthen our school community. It was wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating leadership, confidence and a commitment to making a difference.

School Values

This week, our Head Boy and Head Girl presented awards to children who have demonstrated our school values of Excellence, Respect and Community. It has been wonderful to celebrate so many examples of these values in action across our school.

Jeans for Genes Day!

On Monday, we will be marking Jeans for Genes Day as an opportunity to raise awareness of children and families living with genetic conditions. We are called to show compassion and respect for every member of our community. This day gives us an opportunity to think about children who may face additional challenges and to show our support and understanding.

Children are welcome to wear jeans **with their school shirt and tie** on Monday.



Safeguarding

Please remind children about the importance of staying safe near roads. Encourage them to use safe crossing points, stop and look carefully before crossing, and stay alert when walking near traffic. A few simple reminders can help children make safer choices every day.

Remember: Stop. Look. Listen.



Chaplaincy Team

It has been wonderful to see so many children choosing to spend time in our prayer areas, praying with and for one another, and coming together to pray the Rosary. These moments of prayer help us to grow closer to God and to one another as a school community.

Mini Menas

Our Mini Menas had the very special responsibility of organising and helping to lead our first Mass of the year, as we welcomed our new Parish Priest into our school community. We were incredibly proud of all our children, who celebrated Mass so beautifully, and especially proud of our Mini Menas for the confidence, commitment and reverence they showed as they helped to lead our school community in prayer.

We were also very proud of our children who took on the important role of altar servers, carrying out their duties with such care and dedication. It was a truly special and meaningful way to begin the new school year together as a community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make our first Mass of the year so special.

With every blessing,
Mrs Anderson

Catholic Virtue

This Sunday, the Gospel reminds us about the importance of forgiveness. Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive someone who hurts us. Jesus answers, “seventy-seven times” – reminding us that forgiveness should not have a limit. The Gospel teaches us to forgive others as we hope God will forgive us.

As we think about forgiveness in our own lives, we can ask ourselves:

- How does it feel when someone forgives you?
- Is there someone you could forgive?
- Is there someone you could say sorry to?

This week, let us pray for the courage to say sorry, the kindness to forgive, and the love to give others a fresh start.



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

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



A note from the
Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl

Respect Matters

We should always be respectful. Little acts of respect make a big difference, so please be respectful to each other in school. Respect means listening to others, using kind words and treating everyone fairly. Even something as simple as holding a door open or helping someone can show respect.

Teddy, Head Boy

We should respect people because it can make someone's day. Even saying hello or "how are you?" can have a positive impact. Listening to people is a really good way to show respect. We should also remember that everyone is different and has their own thoughts and feelings. Being kind and including others can help everyone feel welcome and valued.

Keira, Head Girl

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
- 2 October – Harvest Festival
- 1–31 October – Black History Month
- 1 October – National Poetry Day
- 2 October – CAFOD Family Fast Day
- 4 October – Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi
- 6 October – Open Morning for September 2027 Reception Intake
- 9 October – Year 3 Assembly
- 10 October – World Mental Health Day
- 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

