



4th September 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome to the start of our new school year. I hope you and your families have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break, and that everyone is returning refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead.

It has been a pleasure welcoming our children back into school this week. The enthusiasm and positive attitude they have shown have made for a wonderful start to the term. We are especially delighted to welcome our Reception children, the newest members of our school community. Starting school is a significant milestone, and we look forward to supporting them as they begin their learning journey with us. I have certainly enjoyed spending time in Reception this week getting to know them!

We are also pleased to welcome new members of staff, Mrs Wedderspoon, Mrs Krishna and Mrs Armstrong, who have joined our team this year. Their skills, experience and enthusiasm will be a valuable addition to our school, and we know they will quickly become part of our welcoming community.

Mission Statement

With Christ at the
Centre

We strive for Excellence

Act with Respect

and

Serve our Community

Vision

We share the love of
God, every day in
everything we learn, do
and say.



FAITH



EXCELLENCE



RESPECT



COMMUNITY

It has been lovely to see all children returning to wearing full school uniform every day this week. As part of our commitment to providing children with increased opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport, PE kits will remain in school and we have been so grateful for your support and cooperation with this arrangement.

With our busy programme of enrichment opportunities, including trips, visits, workshops and Masses, alongside changes due to weather and timetabling, PE sessions often need to move days. Keeping PE kits in school gives us the flexibility to make these changes without children missing valuable PE opportunities or families needing to send kits in at short notice.

It also means that children can change into clean, dry uniform after outdoor activities, supporting their comfort and wellbeing. Children are welcome to take their kit home after it is worn, or can keep it in school for the term. We appreciate your continued support and cooperation and class teachers will be happy to answer any queries regarding the practical arrangements.

Congratulations to all of the children who have been recognised this week for demonstrating our school values of Excellence, Respect and Community. Across the school, we have seen so many wonderful examples of children working hard, embracing challenges, showing respect to one another and to staff, displaying beautiful manners, and supporting others within our school community. These values are reflected in the kindness, determination and positivity our children show every day.

Well done to all of our wonderful children who have taken on leadership positions this week, including our Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, Sports Captains, House Captains, Class Prefects and Subject Ambassadors. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. We know you will be fantastic role models and will carry out your new responsibilities with enthusiasm, kindness and pride. We wish you every success in your new roles!



SPORTS CAPTAINS

Safeguarding



Please take a moment to check what your child is accessing online. Remind children never to share personal information, to be careful when communicating with others online, and to always tell a trusted adult if something worries or upsets them.

Remember: Stop. Block. Tell.



Holy Communion

Applications are now open for children in Year 3 who would like to prepare for and celebrate their First Holy Communion. The deadline for applications is Friday 25 September.

If your child has not yet been baptised, we would be delighted to welcome them into the Catholic faith and support them so that they can take part in this very special sacrament.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Mrs Winter, our Parish Secretary, who will be very happy to provide further information and support.

Pre loved Uniform

Please help yourself to any pre-loved uniform from the storage shed on the playground.

If you have uniform your family no longer needs, we warmly welcome donations to the shed. By reusing and sharing, we support sustainability, help other families and live out our Catholic values of caring for one another and God's creation.

With every blessing,
Mrs Anderson

Catholic Virtue

Our virtue for September is RESPECT

We are inspired by Mary, mother of God, who showed respect and courtesy by humbly listening and serving others with kindness.

Signs of living the virtue of respect:

- I listen carefully and speak politely to others
- I treat everyone fairly and with dignity as children of God
- I honour God's creation by respecting people and things around me



We will be looking for children demonstrating this virtue during September!

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 Head Boy and Head Girl

Attendance Matters

Our Head Boy and Girl have been sharing their thoughts about why coming to school every day is so important. We are very proud of the positive messages they have shared:

“You should always attend school with a smile on your face. It is such an important time to learn and have fun, but if your attendance is low, you will miss those important times. Try to be in school, everyday but above all, DO YOUR BEST.”

Liam, Head Boy

“We come to school to learn something new every day, and make friends. Attendance is so important because you do not want to miss any learning and fall behind.”

Sophia, Head Girl

Dates for the Diary

September 2026

- 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

October 2026

- 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 2026

- 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 2026

- 2 December – EYFS Nativity
- 10 December – Christmas Jumper Day
- 7 December – KS2 Carol Concert in Church
- 9 December – KS1 Nativity
- 15 December – Steps in Faith Returned to School
- 18 December – End of Term

