

St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School

Living and learning together with a joyous heart



Newsletter No 13

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We started the week back in school reminding ourselves about the messages of Lent: praying, fasting and giving. In this week's Monday Mission, children were asked to spend time in the quiet of prayer. Our Mini Vinnies have been hard at work making crosses to sell in the coming few weeks.

Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Williams

British Science Week

We had a fantastic end to British Science Week last Friday. Visitors from a variety of different organisations, who all use science in their work including the fire brigade, police officers, chemists, a dentist and a geneticist came in and talk to the children in their classes about their work. We then had a science fair with demonstrations of science including making wax melts and using Microbits. A huge thanks to all our visitors for giving up their time to come and work with and enthuse our children.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations

On Monday we were treated to some amazing Irish Dancing displays from lots of our talented pupils. Thank you to Vickers School of Irish Dance.

The dance school are offering first sessions free for all new dancers. Information can be found on Facebook or online.

Reception Visit to Hall Hill Farm

On Monday Reception class visited Hall Hill Farm. Everyone had a wonderful time stroking the rabbits, holding chicks and feeding the lambs. We even got a chance to play in the barn and go on a tractor and trailer ride. We returned to school very tired, but we all enjoyed our day.

Comic Relief

We've had a good laugh in school this afternoon, sharing some jokes with our classmates. The Wellbeing Ambassadors have been busy judging jokes and have chosen some winning for prizes. Thank you for all your donations.

[Janet McKie is fundraising for Comic Relief](#)

Catholic Life

Children in KS2 have been joining the parish family in their classes for Wednesday mass.

Y1 Celebration of the word

Well done to our lovely Year 1 children who led Celebration of the word this morning for their parents – the theme was all about Lent and how we grow closer to God during Lent.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

We are in planning a whole school walk along the Staiths, raising money for CAFOD. The walk will start on Friday 4th April at 9am. If anyone can volunteer to walk with one of the classes, please contact the school office.

[St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School, Dunston – Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust \(bwcet.com\)](#)

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Paste Eggs

Our traditional paste egg competition will take place on Monday 7th April. Children can bring in dyed, coloured, decorated eggs on the morning of the competition, with a prize for a child in each class. It's always such a popular competition. The eggs will be able to be seen again at the end of the school day. We will very much look forward to seeing the children's creations.

Safeguarding

The designated persons for safeguarding and child protection are Mrs Williams, Miss Anthony, Miss Ormerod, Mr Wright. If you need to speak to a designated person, please contact the school office.

This Week's School Attendance

W/E 14.03.25

Y6	93.43%
Y5	96.76%
Y4	97.22%
Y3	95.83%
Y2	97.66%
Y1	100% This week's winners!
YR	93.83%

This Week's School Attendance

W/E 21.03.25

Y6	96.46%
Y5	95.37%
Y4	97.92%
Y3	94.44%
Y2	91.81%
Y1	99.18% This week's winners!
YR	93.83%

Stars of the Week

A Star of the Week is picked from each class every week and they have their stars displayed in the school hall:

W/E 14.03.25

Milan M	For making great progress in Phonics and writing.
Riley N	For fantastic writing about our 'Pip and Egg' story.
Robyn T	For fantastic writing about our 'Pip and Egg' story.
Dara M	For her super skills in Maths.
Michelle M	For being an excellent role model.
Gloria C	For an amazing rap about Mater Autumn.
Andre C	For excellent effort and ideas in History when asking and answering insightful questions.
Kula L-S	For fantastic work in Maths. Keep up the great work!

W/E 21.03.25

Jack H	For representing the school brilliantly while on two trips this week.
Kiera S	For listening carefully and trying hard with all her work.
Karl K	For a brilliant retell about 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark'.
Alistair M	For being a kind caring and helpful member of our school.
George C	For some wonderful descriptive sentences about Lucy as she enters Narnia.
Isabelle S	For quality sentence writing because of hard work.
Freya W	For working a conscientious effort to work hard and make great progress in all lessons.

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Parent communication in Arbor

St Philip's use Arbor to communicate with parents. This is the best way to keep you updated about things that are happening in school. **We ask parents to download the app on their phones and keep it open.** If you select the notification alert it will alert you when school has sent you a message. This would prevent us having to issue in-app messages and email at the same time for those parents who have not logged into Arbor.

Easter Fund Raising

The Friends met at the coffee morning and fundraising ideas were discussed for Easter. We are currently organising an Easter Raffle. Tickets have been distributed to each family. We have also asked for any chocolate bar or easter egg donations to us as prizes. More information will follow with any Easter Fund Raising celebrations. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below some key dates for the Spring term. New dates/ changes are highlighted.

March

Tuesday 25 th	First Holy Communion Class, 3:15-4:15pm in school
Wednesday 26 th	Y4 MTC Parents Meeting 3.15 pm
Wednesday 26th	Dance Festival Y2
Friday 28th	Reception Class Celebration of the Word, 9am in the school hall
Monday 31st	Parents' Evening 3:30 – 5:30 pm (Y1-Y6)

April

Tuesday 1 st	Parents Evening 3:30 – 5:30 pm (Y1 – Y6)
Thursday 3 rd	Reception Parents Evening 3:30 – 5:30 pm
Friday 4 th	Whole School Big Lent Walk for CAFOD
Monday 7 th	Paste Egg Competition (to be brought into the school hall for judging on Monday morning)
Tuesday 8 th	First Reconciliation Service in church 5:30pm for the First Holy Communion Group (Y4) in St Philip Neri church

EASTER HOLIDAY: Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April

May

Monday, 12 May – Year 6 SATS week
Thursday, 15 May

June

INSET DAY Friday 20th June (school closed to pupils)

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