

# St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School

*Living and learning together with a joyous heart*



## Newsletter No 10

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all enjoyed good Christmas holiday, and I wish you all the very best for 2026.

Key dates for the term ahead are shared below. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Sarah Williams

### Catholic Life

On Monday, during our whole-school worship, we focussed on one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles: solidarity. Children then made their own pledges to help their brothers and sisters around the world.

### First Holy Communion

Letters have been sent out to children in Year 4 in preparation for the First Holy Communion Programme. If there are any children Years 5 and 6 who missed this programme in previous years and now want to participate, please contact the school office.

### Safeguarding

This afternoon, we practised our lockdown drill in school. This is an important part of our safeguarding procedures, and we always make sure that this is something that we explain to the children with easy, child-friendly explanations.

We explain that this is just like our fire drill, but instead of going outside, we stay in our classrooms. We explain reasons why this might happen e.g. a chemical spill or smoke in the neighbourhood, if police are dealing with something outside of school or if an animal has come onto the school yard. We let the children know that this only lasts a few minutes, and then we'll go back to our normal day.

Designated persons for safeguarding and child protection are Mrs Sarah Williams, Headteacher, Miss Anthony, Deputy Headteacher, Miss Ormerod, SENDCo and Mr Wright, Y5 Class Teacher.

If you need to speak to a designated person, please contact the school office.

### Wraparound Care

We still have spaces in our wraparound care groups before and after school. Children take part in lots of fun activities and it's a great opportunity for children to make new friends. Places can be booked via Arbor, or you can contact the school office for more information.

### Parking around school

<https://stphilipneridunston.bwcet.com>

[info@spd.bwcet.com](mailto:info@spd.bwcet.com)

01914604378



**Bishop Wilkinson**  
Catholic Education Trust

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We kindly remind all families that cars should not be parked outside of school or in the school carpark. If you are dropping off children, please use parking on Forge Road. Traffic wardens have been monitoring parking and issuing fines.

## Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed and you think that you might be eligible to claim for Free School Meals, please apply via the Gateshead Council website [Free school meals - Gateshead Council](#)

## Attendance

### W/E 9.1.2026

Y6	99.43%	
Y5	95.54%	
Y4	98.05%	
Y3	100%	<b>This week's winner!</b>
Y2	95.24%	
Y1	100%	<b>This week's winner!</b>
YR	96.43%	

### W/E 16.01.2026

Y6	100%	<b>This week's winner!</b>
Y5	95.83%	
Y4	96.46%	
Y3	97.04%	
Y2	93.31%	
Y1	100%	<b>This week's winner!</b>

## Stars of the Week

Every week, teachers pick children to be awarded Star of the Week. This award recognises school values, achievements, effort, or positive behaviour over the course of a week.

### Last week's (9.1.2026) stars are:

<b>Adylaide A</b>	For amazing number work in maths.
<b>Tobenna N</b>	For excellent learning behaviours especially in maths.
<b>Ronel G</b>	For his amazing geographical knowledge.
<b>Hunter W</b>	For being an excellent role model of following the St Philip Neri Way.
<b>Esme S</b>	For great maths work when multiplying by 10 and 100.
<b>Lucas T</b>	For great effort in making improvements in your handwriting.
<b>Daisy S</b>	For a super start to 2026 – working hard in all lessons and being a great Y6 role model.

### This week's (16.1.2026) stars are:

<b>Billy Y</b>	For a fantastic attitude towards learning.
<b>Daniel R</b>	For excellent work in English.
<b>Lillie B</b>	For amazing descriptive writing.
<b>Matthew G</b>	For great progress and effort with his handwriting.
<b>Mia H</b>	For consistently working hard in class superb times tables and handwriting.
<b>Danielle A</b>	For an exemplary mindset for mathematics problem solving.
<b>Ephraim M</b>	For having an excellent attitude to all his work – a very mature approach. Keep up the great work.

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below some key dates for the Spring term. Classes will lead a celebration of the word or assembly every term. Parents and carers are welcome to join us. More information may follow on some the activities listed below.

### January

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January** Year 4 History Outreach Day: Romans in Britain (in school)  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** Year 1 Cricket at Gateshead Stadium

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January** Year 6 Celebration of the Word (Holocaust Memorial), 9am

### February

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February** Year 5 Celebration of the Word, 9am

**Half-term:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

### March

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** Year 4 Celebration of the Word, 9am  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** Science Day in school  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** Reception Celebration (Mothering Sunday theme), 9am  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** Year 3 Celebration of the Word, 9am  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** Year 2 Celebration of the Word, 9am

### April

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Year 1 Come and Pray (Lent Stations), 9am

**Easter Holiday:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April** Year 3 History Outreach Day: Ancient Greeks (in school)  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April** Reception Class Rockpool School (in school)

### May

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> –** Year 6 SATS week  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**