

St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School

Living and learning together with a joyous heart



Newsletter No 13

Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you enjoyed the half term break. It's been a busy week back in school with lots going on. We're continuing with our journey through Lent, thinking about the messages to pray, fast and give.

Best wishes for the weekend ahead

Mrs Sarah Williams

Catholic Life

On Monday mornings, we always come together as a school to share Sunday's Gospel messages. This week, children heard the story of the transfiguration. Year 4 children took the Monday Mission back to class to reflect on the messages of this week and then write their own prayers.

Year 4 Celebration of the Word

Well done to our Year 4 children who led celebration of the word this morning. Their theme was all about Lent. They gave us lots to reflect on and told us about how they are trying to make an effort this Lent to be kind to others – well done Year 4.

World Book Day

Thank you so much to all the children and families who joined us this week for our 'Breakfast with a Book' mornings. A special thank you to the Friends of St Philips who helped with this event.

Today, we celebrated in school with lots of additional reading opportunities.

We know that it can be so tricky for parents to keep their children interested in books and stories. BookTrust are a fantastic charity which help to support children and their families with reading.

[Supporting Parents, Carers and Families | BookTrust](#)

Dunston Library

Dunston Library in the popular Dunston Activity Centre is run by Dunston Family Church.

The library is open for the selection of books and computer use. Our service is still operating and fines for late return of items will not be charged.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday	10am to 4pm
Saturday	10am to 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Safeguarding

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.

Polite Reminder

Please remember that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds or church premises at any time.

This is to ensure the safety and comfort of all our pupils, families, and visitors.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

<https://stphilipneridunston.bwcet.com>

info@spd.bwcet.com

01914604378



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust

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Parking around school

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.

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.

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

We're making a big effort with our attendance this week in school - well done everyone!

W/E 20.02.2026

Y6	92.44%
Y5	93.75%
Y4	98.99%
Y3	98.52%
Y2	97.04%
Y1	99.42%
YR	99.54% Last week's winner!

W/E 06.03.2026

Y6	100% This week's winner!
Y5	96.09%
Y4	95.45%
Y3	95%
Y2	96.25%
Y1	99.42%
YR	98.96%

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 (20.02.2026) stars are:

Harry F	For being an enthusiastic learner – listening carefully, answering questions and sharing brilliant ideas.
Michaela I	For always making a fantastic effort in all lessons.
Mark M	For excellent knowledge about the Victorians.
Lily W	For making excellent suggestions and links with learning in History.
Poppy B	For a super effort with her fraction work.
Harun Y	For excellent independent writing and effort.
Roman W	For always being a fantastic role model for other pupils in school.

This Week's (06.03.2026) stars are:

Milo S	For making a fantastic effort in phonics.
Jack H	For thoughtful and artistic work in R.E lessons.
Martin G	For writing an amazing explanation text.
Sophia C	For always being kind and considerate.
Arabella S	For always following the St Philip Neri Way in class, around school and in the playground.
Grace D	For excellent reading skills and sharing of ideas.
Lawrence A	For an excellent composition on the glockenspiel in music.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find below some key dates for the upcoming terms. 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.

March

Tuesday 10th March	Y5 & Y6 History Outreach Day Vikings
Tuesday 10th March	Reconciliation Service in Church 5.30 pm
Wednesday 11th March	Reception Hall Hill Farm Visit
Friday 13th March	Science Day in school
Friday 13th March	Reception Celebration (Mothering Sunday theme), 9am
Friday 20th March	Year 3 Celebration of the Word, 9am
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief
Monday 23rd March	YR – Y6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th March	Y1 – Y6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 25th March	YR – Parents' Evening
Friday 27th March	Year 2 Celebration of the Word, 9am
Tuesday 31st March	Stations of the Cross Y3/4 2.30 pm

April

Wednesday 1st April	Year 1 Come and Pray (Lent Stations), in school 8.30 am
Wednesday 1st April	Whole School Mass 9.30 am
Wednesday 1st April	Stations of the Cross Y5/6 2.30 pm

Easter Holiday: Friday 3rd April – Friday 17th April

Monday 27th April	Year 3 History Outreach Day: Ancient Greeks (in school)
Monday 27th April	Year 1 History Outreach Day: Local History
Tuesday 28th April	Reception Class Rockpool School (in school)

May

Monday, 11th –	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 14th May	