

# St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School

*Living and learning together with a joyous heart*



Newsletter No 14

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy and exciting couple of weeks in school, with so much wonderful learning and activity taking place across all year groups. From special events and celebrations to hands on experiences in class, the children have thrown themselves into everything with enthusiasm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—it makes such a difference to all we do.

Best wishes for the weekend ahead

Mrs Sarah Williams

## **Catholic Life**

During Lent, we are gathering each week to learn more about the lives of our house saints. So far, we have heard the stories of St Bede, St Hild, and St Cuthbert from teachers who lead the houses and the Year 6 captains. Each of these saints has a value, which offers us lessons that help guide and inspire us in our own lives.

## **Reception Hall Hill Farm Visit**

Reception enjoyed a fantastic day at the farm last week, with plenty of learning, happy faces, and brave hands feeding the animals. A real hands on highlight of their topic. Very well done to our reception class.

## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed parent to join our Local Governing Committee as a Parent Governor.

Parent Governors play a vital role on the governing committee, supporting its leadership and ensuring the best possible education for all pupils. This is a rewarding opportunity to use your skills, experience, and insight as a parent to make a real difference.

### **Who can apply?**

Any parent or carer with a child currently enrolled at the school is eligible. No previous experience is necessary—just a willingness to get involved and a desire to help our school to thrive.

### **How to apply**

If you would like to find out more about the role, please get in touch—we would be happy to talk you through what being a governor involves.

If you wish to apply, please contact school on [info@spd.bwcet.com](mailto:info@spd.bwcet.com) by Friday 27th March.

In the event of several applicants, there will be a parental vote.

## **Y5 & Y6 History Outreach Day Vikings**

Year 5 and Year 6 had a fantastic day with the Durham University Learning and Engagement Team, exploring Viking life and culture.

## **Science Day**

We enjoyed another fantastic Science Day as part of British Science Week. Scientists visited each class in the morning, followed by a lively science fair in the afternoon. A huge thank you to our visitors from Newcastle University, AkzoNobel, Siemens Energy, Newcastle United Foundation, and to our parent scientists for giving up their time to create such a memorable experience for the children.

Thanks also to our KS2 Science Ambassadors, who were excellent in showcasing their work. It was a memorable day that inspired a real love of science throughout the school.

## **St Patrick's Day**

Vickers School of Irish Dance delighted us on Tuesday with a brilliant performance. Such talented dancers - and surely a few new recruits inspired!

[Irish Dance Classes | OurGateshead](#)

<https://stphilipneridunston.bwcet.com>

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## Celebration of the Word

Reception class led a lovely Celebration of the Word for Mother's Day last week. Year 3 followed this week, with a peaceful and thoughtful celebration for Lent.

## 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.

## 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 13.03.2026

Y6	97.33%
Y5	100% <b>Last week's winner!</b>
Y4	97.98%
Y3	100% <b>Last week's winner!</b>
Y2	97.78%
Y1	100% <b>Last week's winner!</b>
YR	98.15%

### W/E 20.03.2026

Y6	92.44%
Y5	97.92% <b>This week's winner!</b>
Y4	93.43%
Y3	97.78%
Y2	94.44%
Y1	95.32%
YR	97.2%

## 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 (13.03.2026) stars are:

<b>Wave T</b>	For joining with all the activities at the farm: holding, stroking and feeding animals big and small.
<b>Hanaan O</b>	For amazing hard work in reading and phonics.
<b>Mark G</b>	For always working hard and having great contributions in class.
<b>Ariam T</b>	For great enthusiasm and work ethic in her maths learning this week.
<b>Oleado N</b>	For fantastic times tables recall.
<b>George C</b>	For excellent historical knowledge and curiosity.
<b>Frankie S</b>	For being a helpful, polite member of our school family who always look out for others.

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## This Week's (20.03.2026) stars are:

<b>Quinn A</b>	For a fantastic attitude and wonderful effort in maths lessons.
<b>Cole A</b>	For an amazing effort in handwriting.
<b>Isaac S</b>	For great starts to the day coming in with a smile.
<b>Matthew G</b>	For an excellent focus on handwriting and presentation.
<b>Esme S</b>	For achieving 25 out of 25 three weeks in a row for times tables.
<b>Olivia L</b>	For continued excellence of presentation in all learning.
<b>George G</b>	For having a positive, mature attitude towards his work.

## 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

<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	YR – Y6 Parents' Evening
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y1 – Y6 Parents' Evening
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	YR – Parents' Evening
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 2 Celebration of the Word, 9am
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Easter Egg Competition</b>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Stations of the Cross Y3/4 2.30 pm in church

### April

<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Year 1 Come and Pray (Lent Stations), in school 8.30 am
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Whole School Mass 9.30 am
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Stations of the Cross Y5/6 2.30 pm in church
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Raffle Drawn</b>

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

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

### May

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

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