

St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School

Living and learning together with a joyous heart



Newsletter No 20

Friday 26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a particularly hot and challenging week in school as temperatures have soared. A huge well done to all our children for continuing to try their very best in both their work and play despite the heat.

We have been incredibly proud of the children's efforts throughout the week - keep up the fantastic work!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Williams

Staffing

Farewell to Mrs King

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs King. Mrs King has been a much-valued member of the St Philip Neri team for nearly nine years, spending much of her career teaching in both Year 5 and Year 2.

She is a much-loved teacher who always has a kind word for every child and brings a wonderful sense of fun to the classroom. Mrs King has also inspired us all with her creativity, often wowing us with her beautiful artwork!

We would like to thank Mrs King for her dedication and commitment to our school community and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

Staffing for September

Miss Golightly will be joining the St Philip's team in September. She joins us from another Bishop Wilkinson school. We very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.

Please find below the staffing arrangements for September. Children will get the chance to meet their new teachers and support staff next week.

Reception Class - Ms Ormerod (Mon & Tues) & Mrs Pearce (Wed-Fri) supported by Miss Dolan

Year 1 – Mrs Gaughan supported by Mrs Wright and Mrs Liddle

Year 2 – Miss Golightly

Year 3 – Ms Hill supported by Mrs Barnaby and Mrs Coleman

Year 4 – Mrs Graham supported by Mrs Cooper

Year 5 – Mr Wright supported by Mrs Cooper

Year 6 – Miss Anthony supported by Mrs Cooper

Y2 Beamish Visit

Year 2 had a fantastic day at Beamish Open Air Museum this week, bringing their learning about the Victorian era to life! The children explored traditional homes, experienced what it was like to attend a Victorian school, and even ventured down a mine. It was a wonderful hands-on opportunity that deepened their understanding of history while providing lots of excitement and enjoyment.

A day full of learning—and lots of fun!

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A Celebration of Music

Our Key Stage 2 pupils wowed us with a wonderful celebration of music on Thursday. Their enthusiasm, confidence and talent shone through in a fantastic performance. The programme featured a range of songs from each of our Key Stage 2 classes, songs from our choir and some solos from piano students. We finished up with a whole key stage finale: Make Your Own Kind of Music and Power in Me that brought everyone together. It was a wonderful occasion that reflected the children's hard work and love of music. A huge thanks to Mrs Gaughan and Stuart, from Side-by-Side Arts.

[Side by Side Arts – Music lessons with a social purpose](#)

Y2 Celebration of the Word

Year 2 have had a very busy week. This morning they led us a beautiful Celebration of the Word, all about the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Saints Peter and Paul helped to establish Christ's Church. Year 2 reflected on the example of St Peter and St Paul, inspiring us to reach out to others. Thank you for your lovely reading and singing, Year 2.

Catholic Life

**GIFT FOR LIFE
SUMMER SOCIAL**

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2pm-4.30pm
St Mary's RC Church Hall, Dockendale Lane, Whickham

All profits from this event go to Gift for Life, a project of
the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri,
supporting vulnerable people in India, Kenya and locally

**Tombola, Face Painting, Raffle,
Quizzes, Refreshments and much more !!**

The Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri would love to welcome children and their families for the Summer Social this Sunday. All profits go to the Gift for Life project.

Spare clothes for Reception Class children

Spare clothes for some of our younger pupils are running low. Reception class would really appreciate it if you could send any spare school uniform: a spare polo shirt, jumper or cardigan, trousers or skirt, along with underwear and socks, would be perfect – we love our messy play! Thank you!

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.

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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.

Attendance

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

W/E 19.06.2026

W/E 26.03.2026

Y6	100%	Last week's winner!
Y5	99.22%	
Y4	94.32%	
Y3	96.88%	
Y2	97.08%	
Y1	94.74%	
YR	96.5%	

Y6	95.56%	
Y5	98.61%	This week's winner!
Y4	93.43%	
Y3	90.28%	
Y2	91.48%	
Y1	94.74%	
YR	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 (19.06.2026) stars are:

Lyle F	For an excellent attitude to reading and phonics activities.
Reuben C	For being thoughtful and considerate.
Nkanyeziyethu N	For being a polite, kind and a lovely friend.
Poppy – Grace W	For having lovely manners around school.
Korey S	For being a technical whizz during our production rehearsals – we'd be lost without you!

This week's (26.06.2026) stars are:

Caleb S	For a fantastic effort in phonics and handwriting.
Theo W	For brilliant independent writing about how to be a good friend.
Bella I	For improved presentation and making a great start to joining her writing.
Freddie H	For always helping others.
Oliver S	For being a helpful and supportive friend.
Grace D	For being a superstar at Forest School.
Annabel I	For developing her confidence when singing solo on stage.

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 will follow on some the activities listed below.

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July

Wednesday	1st July	STM & Emmanuel College Y6 Transition Days
Thursday	2nd July	Y5 Trust Celebration of Sport Day
Friday	3rd July	Y4 Celebration of the Word 9.00 am
Tuesday	7th July	Summer Fair 3.30 pm
Wednesday	8th July	Sports Day – Dunston Activity Centre (R & KS1 9.15 – 10.30 am) (KS2 10.30 – 12.30 pm)
Wednesday	8th July	Year 6 production 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' – 1.30pm and 5.30pm
Friday	10th July	Sponsored Walk (Whole School)
Friday	10th July	Reception Celebration of the Word 9.00 am
Wednesday	15th July	Leavers' Mass at 9:30am, in St Philip Neri Church
Thursday	16th July	Leavers' Celebration of the Word 2.30pm
Friday	17th July	School closes at 3.15 pm for 6 weeks summer holiday.

Summer Holidays from 20.7.2026 to 1.9.2026

September

Wednesday	2nd September	School open
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