13th November 2026

NEWSLETTER

At St Philomena's, We Share the Love of God









We have enjoyed another lovely week in school, with lots of exciting activities taking place and many opportunities for our children to learn, reflect and come together as a community. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and positive attitudes shining through in all that they do. As always, we are grateful for the continued support of our families, which makes such a difference to school life.

We celebrated Outdoor Learning Day, with some wonderful activities happening across the school. It was lovely to see the children enjoying learning beyond the classroom and making the most of our outdoor spaces. A big thank you to Mrs Standing for organising such an enjoyable day.

It was a pleasure to welcome parents into school for our goal sharing meetings. We hope you found these conversations valuable and that you left feeling well informed about your child's progress and how you can support their learning at home. We really value the partnership between home and school.

We came together to mark Remembrance Day with a beautiful and thoughtful service led by our Faith Team. The children led the occasion with great respect and reflection, and we are very proud of them. Thank you to all the parents and families who were able to join us and share in this special moment.

House Games

This week, our children came together in their four houses – Canterbury, Walsingham, Faversham and Aylesford – each named after places with special connections to our Catholic faith and heritage.

Led by our wonderful House Captains, the children took part in an exciting range of activities, all carefully planned and organised by the captains themselves. From energetic races and tug-of-war challenges to creative construction tasks and drawing competitions, there was something for everyone to enjoy!

Throughout the week, we witnessed wonderful examples of teamwork, determination, creativity, encouragement and, above all, fantastic sportsmanship. It was lovely to see children supporting one another, celebrating each other's achievements and showing such pride in their houses.

After some very close competitions, a huge congratulations to Aylesford House, our overall House Games champions! A special thank you and well done to all our House Captains for their leadership, enthusiasm and hard work in making the games such a success. We are incredibly proud of you!

Our children demonstrated that, while winning is exciting, the true spirit of our House Games lies in friendship, teamwork, participation and celebrating the gifts and talents of everyone. What a wonderful celebration of our school community and Catholic values!



Run Pudsey

Well done to our children who supported BBC Children in Need, showing kindness, generosity and compassion for children and families facing difficult circumstances.

The children enjoyed taking part in our Pudsey Run, bringing plenty of energy, enthusiasm and smiles as they ran together for such a worthwhile cause!

This was a wonderful opportunity to put our Catholic Social Teaching into action, particularly the principles of Human Dignity, Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. Through their participation, the children demonstrated that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a real difference to the lives of others. They showed us what it means to follow Jesus' example by caring for those in need and working together for the common good.

A huge well done to all our children for their enthusiasm, generosity and wonderful sense of community. We are so proud of the way they continue to live out our Gospel values, putting their faith into action and showing that together, we can make a difference.









Anti Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, children are invited to wear **odd socks on Monday** to celebrate our differences and what makes each of us unique. We look forward to seeing lots of colourful odd socks!

Inter Faith Week

This week, we celebrated National Inter Faith Week, with every class exploring a different faith and learning about the beliefs, traditions and practices of others. As a Catholic school, our own faith is at the heart of everything we do, but we also recognise the importance of broadening children's understanding of the diverse world in which we live.

It has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to ask questions, discover similarities and differences between religions and develop the values of tolerance, respect, kindness and understanding. Our Catholic faith teaches us to recognise the dignity of every person and to love and respect others, regardless of their beliefs.

We look forward to celebrating and showcasing the children's learning in our **special assembly next Friday at 10am.** We hope you can join us for what promises to be a lovely celebration of faith, diversity and our shared values.

Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the importance of using the gifts and talents God has given us. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus tells the story of a master who entrusts three servants with different amounts of money before going away. Two of the servants use what they have been given wisely and make it grow, while the third servant, afraid of making a mistake, hides his money in the ground. When the master returns, he praises those who have made good use of their gifts.

This reminds us that God has given each of us unique gifts and talents, and He wants us to use them to make a positive difference in the world. Just as the faithful servants made the most of what they were given, we are called to share our talents through kindness, generosity and helping others.



We can reflect on how we use our own gifts and talents:

What special gifts and talents has God given us?
How can we use our gifts to help others and make a positive difference in our school community?

We are proud of the children who have demonstrated this virtue this week!



A Note from the Maths Ambassadors

We have been busy talking about maths across the school, and we are so proud of everyone's hard work! Times tables are a real strength in our school, and it is fantastic to see so many children working hard to learn them all.

We are especially proud of some of our youngest children in the infants who have already mastered all their times tables. What an amazing achievement!

Joseph, Maths Ambassador
We have an exciting reward planned! Our top 60 Rock Legends will be going on a special bowling trip! We have reset all the scores on Times Tables Rock Stars so everyone has a fresh chance to become a Rock Legend this half term. Log in every day and climb to the top!

Divine, Maths Ambassador
Times tables are important, you should practise every day until you are very fast. If you are finding any of your times tables tricky, don't worry! Come and speak to one of us, your Maths Ambassadors, and we will be happy to help.

School Values

It has been lovely to see our school values of Excellence, Community and Respect shining through in so many ways at St. Philomena's this week. Whether through acts of kindness, showing care and consideration for others, working hard to achieve their best or encouraging and supporting their friends, our children continue to make us incredibly proud. These everyday actions are what make our school community so special. A huge well done to all the children who have been recognised this week for being wonderful role models and bringing our values to life.

YEAR GROUP	**EXCELLENCE**	**RESPECT**	**COMMUNITY**
YEAR R	RATHAVAN	LILLY MAE	KYRON
YEAR 1	ARTHUR	CHRISTINA	PIPPA
YEAR 2	JACK	FLORENCE	LILIANA
YEAR 3	LAUGHLIN	RIA	KHIZAR
YEAR 4	DARCIE	LORENZO	TALLULAH
YEAR 5	AMBER	GEORGE	EMILY
YEAR 6	NAYTHAN	SOPHIA M	PETER

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027



Autumn Term 2026
INSET Days
Wednesday 26 August 2026
Thursday 27 August 2026
Friday 28 August 2026
Bank Holiday
Monday 31 August 2026
First Day of Term
Tuesday 1 September 2026
Half-Term
Monday 19 October – Friday 30 October 2026
Back to School
Monday 2 November 2026
Last Day of Term
Friday 18 December 2026
Spring Term 2027
First Day of Term
Monday 4 January 2027
Half-Term
Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027
Back to School
Monday 22 February 2027
Last Day of Term
Thursday 25 March 2027
Easter Bank Holidays
Good Friday: Friday 26 March 2027
Easter Monday: Monday 29 March 2027
Summer Term 2027
First Day of Term
Monday 12 April 2027
May Bank Holiday
Monday 3 May 2027
Half-Term
Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027
Back to School
Monday 7 June 2027
Last Day of Term
Wednesday 21 July 2027
INSET Days
Thursday 22 July 2027
Friday 23 July 2027

Just 10 minutes late each day amounts to 50 minutes of lost learning each week.

Please aim to be on the playground by 8.50am, ready for the bell, so that every child can start their day positively and make the most of learning time.

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (Occasions)
YEAR R	98	3
YEAR 1	98	1
YEAR 2	97	1
YEAR 3	99	1
YEAR 4	99	0
YEAR 5	97	0
YEAR 6	97	1
Overall Weekly Attendance: 97.9%		

Gates Open: 8.45am
School Begins: 8:50am
Gates Lock: 9:00am

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- 10 September – Whole School Mass in Church
- 15 September – International Day of Democracy
- 14 September – Jeans for Genes Day
- 14 September - Secondary Transfer Meeting
- 21 September – International Day of Peace
- 21 September - Fairtrade Fortnight
- 23 September – PTA AGM
- 23 September – Phonics Meeting for Reception
- 25 September – Ambassadors to Mass at the Cathedral
- 25 September - Deadline for Holy Communion applications.

OCTOBER

- 1 October – Rosary Week
- 1 October – National Poetry Day
- 1–31 October – Black History Month
- 2 October - Harvest Festival
- 2 October – CAFOD Family Fast Day
- 4 October – Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi
- 5 October - St Francis Day in EYFS class
- 9 October - Year 3 Assembly and Stone Age Day
- 10 October – World Mental Health Day
- 13 October - Y3 to Natural History Museum
- 14 October – Grandparents' Tea Party
- 14 October - EYFS Food Tasting
- 16 October - Year 5 Assembly

NOVEMBER

- 1 November - All Saints Day
- 2 November - All Souls Day
- 9 November - Inter Faith Week
- 11 November – 10am Remembrance Day Assembly
- 13 November – Children in Need Run
- 13 November - Y6 at IWM
- 14 November - Y5 and Y6 Cross Country
- 16 November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 November – Odd Socks Day
- 20 November - 10am Inter Faith Assembly
- 22 November - Choir at Christmas Lights
- 23 November – UK Parliament Week
- 23 November - EYFS to St Andrews
- 24 November - School Council to Parliament
- 27 November - 10am Y6 Assembly

DECEMBER

- 2 December – EYFS Nativity
- 4 December - 10am Y4 Assembly
- 4 December - Choir performing at the Glades
- 9 December – KS1 Nativity
- 15 December – Steps in Faith returned to School
- 16 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- 16 December – Rock Steady Concert
- 17th December – KS2 Carol Concert in Church
- 18 December – End of Term

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cultural Café 13 November | 3:30pm **POSTPONED**
This has been postponed due to lack of interest.

Christmas Fair 5 December | 2:00pm
Join us for our Christmas Fair, with each class hosting its own festive stall. Come along, enjoy the afternoon and support our school!

Safeguarding

Apple iPads can provide children with valuable opportunities for learning and entertainment, but they can also present safeguarding risks if appropriate controls are not in place. Children may be exposed to unsuitable content, online contact from strangers, excessive screen time or inappropriate in-app purchases. Parents are encouraged to use Apple's Screen Time and parental control settings to manage app access, restrict content and monitor usage.

