



16th October 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



I met with a number of children this week as part of our pupil voice work across the school. It was lovely to hear that the children are happy, feel safe and enjoy coming to school. They also shared some great ideas about trips and activities they would like to see as part of their curriculum. We have fed these suggestions back to teachers and look forward to putting some of their ideas into action.



Some of our Year 1 children were keen to find out what a Headteacher does! We had a lovely chat about the role and how a Headteacher helps to look after the school, support staff and make sure everyone is happy, safe and learning well. The children asked some fantastic questions – perhaps we have some future Headteachers among us!



Year 3 had a fantastic time at the Natural History Museum, where they enjoyed learning more about the Stone Age and bringing their classroom learning to life. A big thank you to the parents who gave up their time to join us and support the children on the trip. Visits like these simply couldn't happen without your help, and we are very grateful for your time and support. Thanks also to Ms Wedderspoon for organising such a lovely trip.



Year 5 entertained us with a wonderful assembly about Ancient Greece. It was a delightful celebration of their learning and a chance for them to show just how much they have discovered during their topic. Well done, Year 5!

Grandparents Tea Party

What a lovely time we had at our Grandparent Tea Party! It was delightful to welcome so many grandparents, spending time with family and making new friends within our retired community.

The children were fantastic hosts, serving refreshments and entertaining our guests with poems, songs and a game of bingo! We are very proud of our RE Ambassadors, who worked so hard to organise such a special event.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us. It was lovely to see so much chatting, laughter and friendship, and we hope to welcome you all back again soon!



Black History Month

This week our History Ambassadors set up a Black History Gallery in the hall and proudly displayed the fantastic work completed across the school.

Each year group had their work on display, showcasing the people they had researched and what they had achieved. Classes visited the gallery in small groups, giving everyone the chance to look at the work and learn more about some important and inspiring people.

A big thank you to our History Ambassadors too for helping to sell poppies for Remembrance. They did a fantastic job and we are very proud of them.



School Communication

We are keen to hear your views on our school communication, including our newsletter, website and use of Seesaw. If you have a few minutes, please do share your feedback with us. Your views will help us understand what is working well and where we can make improvements, so that our communication with families is as useful and effective as possible.

<https://forms.gle/uH3yFTDfsLpya8Qs7>

Safeguarding

Deciding when a child is ready for their own mobile phone can be a difficult decision for families. The NSPCC has put together some helpful advice to support parents and carers, including things to consider before giving a child a phone, setting appropriate boundaries and parental controls, and encouraging safe and responsible use online.

It is a useful resource for starting conversations at home about staying safe when using phones and other devices. There is a link to the NSPCC on our website which can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk



Virtual Rosary

This week, our children joined Archbishop John Wilson and schools across the Archdiocese of Southwark to pray the Rosary together. The Archbishop led the children through the Luminous Mysteries, helping them to learn more about the Rosary and how to pray it.

We prayed for the Pope, who has been poorly, and remembered others who are unwell or in need of our prayers.

We finished by singing As I Kneel Before You. It was a special time to pray as a school and to know that we were joining children in schools across the Archdiocese in prayer.



School Council

Our School Council met to share ideas about how we can continue to develop our school. The children talked about our playground and said they would love more equipment. We agreed to fundraise for some new playground equipment, with the School Council planning to ask our PTA for their support at their next meeting.

The children reflected on how much they enjoyed helping to organise our Grandparents' Day. They would now like to organise a special Family Day, giving children the opportunity to share all the lovely things they have been doing in school with their wider families.

We are very grateful to our School Council for working so hard, listening to their classmates and bringing forward such thoughtful ideas to help make our school an even better place.



Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that God invites everyone to share in His Kingdom. In the Parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus tells of a king who prepares a wedding feast for his son and invites many people to come. However, the invited guests refuse the invitation and do not want to attend. The king then opens the invitation to everyone, and many people come to the feast.

This reminds us that God's invitation is freely offered to each of us. We are called to be open to God, accept His invitation and show through our lives that we are ready to follow Him. It is not enough simply to hear God's call; we must respond with faith and live according to His ways.

We can reflect on God's invitation in our own lives:
Are we open to God's call and willing to follow Him?
Do our words and actions show that we have accepted His invitation?



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



A Note on the PTA

We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of Sue, a local resident who very kindly donates toys and other wonderful items to our school for raffles throughout the year. Sue's generosity helps us to raise valuable funds that benefit our children, and we are incredibly grateful for her continued kindness. Our Autumn Raffle raised a fantastic £328, and the children were delighted with their prizes. We thank Mrs Miller for organising the raffle and for all the time and energy she puts into our lovely PTA events.



Our PTA Movie Night was a great success! Thank you to Mrs Beeson and our wonderful PTA volunteers for running the evening, and to our teaching staff who gave their time to come along and help.

It is always lovely to see parents, staff and friends of the school coming together to raise money for our children. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved – we are very lucky to have such a wonderful school community!

Half Term

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to say how proud I am of all our children and staff. Everyone has worked incredibly hard, and it has been wonderful to see the children settle so positively into the new school year, embracing their learning and all the opportunities that school life brings.

I am extremely grateful to our dedicated staff for all they do each day and to our wonderful families and wider school community for the continued support and encouragement. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and there is so much to celebrate.

I hope all our children, families and staff enjoy a happy, restful and well deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term together.

With every blessing,

Mrs Anderson

News from Juventus Taekwondo Academy

We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic achievements of four of our St. Philomena's pupils, who represented Juventus Taekwondo Academy at the 4th WUMF World Championships in Crawley on Sunday 11th October 2026.

Luke, Jack, Kayson and Jenson, all in Year 2, were selected to compete as part of the academy's elite Kyorugi (sparring) squad. This was an especially significant occasion for the boys, as it was their very first competition at World Championship level and by far the largest event they have competed in to date, with more than 1,000 entries across four disciplines.

Understandably, there were plenty of nerves before stepping onto the mat. However, each of the boys showed tremendous courage, determination and maturity. Competing at this level takes a great deal of confidence, discipline and resilience, and they should all be extremely proud of the way they represented themselves, their academy and St. Philomena's.

The matches were incredibly exciting, with some exceptionally close scores. Most of the team progressed to the finals, and three matches were decided by a nail-biting 'Golden Point' !

We are delighted to congratulate the boys on their wonderful individual achievements:

- 🏆 Luke, Year 2 – Finalist – SILVER
- 🏆 Jack, Year 2 – Semi-Finalist – BRONZE
- ★ Kayson, Year 2 – Quarter-Finalist

What a remarkable achievement for their very first World Championships!



Winning medals is a fantastic accomplishment, but equally impressive was the determination, sportsmanship and resilience they demonstrated throughout the competition. These are qualities that we value enormously at St. Philomena's, and it is wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating them beyond the school gates.

Juventus Taekwondo Academy has already been invited to compete at the 5th World Championships next year. We very much look forward to following the boys' continued progress and, hopefully, seeing them step into the ring once again.

If your child has been inspired by the boys' achievements and would like to give Taekwondo a try, please contact Master Tricia at Juventus Taekwondo Academy:

Telephone: 07832 991469

Email: juventustkd@live.co.uk

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027

TERM DATES 2027 - 2028 can be found on our website.

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	96	1
YEAR 1	100	4
YEAR 2	99	0
YEAR 3	100	1
YEAR 4	99	0
YEAR 5	100	0
YEAR 6	97	2
Overall Weekly Attendance: 98.8%		

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
- 5 October – World Teachers Day
- 6 October – Year 5 Greek Day
- 9 October – Year 3 Assembly & 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
- 5 November – Outdoor Learning Day
- 9 November – Diwali Workshop
- 11 November – Remembrance Day
- 13 November – Children in Need
- 14 November – Y5 and Y6 Cross Country
- 16 November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 November – Odd Socks Day
- 23 November – UK Parliament Week
- 23 November – EYFS to St Andrews
- 24 November – School Council to Parliament
- 27 November – Year 6 assembly

DECEMBER

- 2 December – EYFS Nativity
- 2 December – Y3 to Battersea Station
- 9 December – KS1 Nativity
- 15 December – Steps in Faith returned to School
- 16 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- 17th December – KS2 Carol Concert in Church
- 18 December – End of Term

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cultural Café 13 November | 3:30pm

Enjoy delicious food and drinks from around the world while children choose Christmas gifts for friends and family and wrap them ready for Christmas.

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!