6th November 2026

NEWSLETTER

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



Welcome Back!



I hope everyone had a wonderful half-term break! The children have certainly returned refreshed, enthusiastic and ready for another exciting half-term of learning. It has been lovely to see them settle back into school life so positively.

Our football team played their first match of the season this week against St Nicolas' School and came away with a fantastic 5–0 victory! The boys truly demonstrated our school value of Excellence and we are incredibly proud of them. What a brilliant start to the season!



We were delighted to welcome prospective parents to our Open Morning this week. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to discover what makes St. Philomena's such a special place. Our Year 5 children were exceptional tour guides, confidently showing visitors around and proudly sharing everything they love about our school. We received such lovely feedback from our visitors and could not be prouder of the children.



We hope parents and carers enjoyed visiting our classrooms this week, celebrating all the fantastic learning that has taken place. It is always a pleasure to share the children's hard work and achievements with you. We look forward to welcoming you to our Goal Sharing Meetings next week.

Proposed Change to Our School Badge

Our School Council have put forward a thoughtful proposal to update our school badge so that it displays “St Philomena’s Catholic Primary School” *instead of* “St Philomena’s St Mary Cray”.

The children explained that they would like our school badge to reflect our school's full name and Catholic identity, rather than its geographical location. They feel that our badge should clearly represent the Catholic faith and values at the heart of our school community.

The School Council are keen to preserve the history and traditions of St Philomena’s. They would like all other elements of the badge to remain exactly as they are, recognising their special meaning and connection to our patron saint. The proposed change is therefore limited to the wording on the badge.

We are inviting staff, parents, governors and carers to share their views on this proposal. Please take a look at the image below showing the suggested badge and let us know if you have any comments or objections via:

https://forms.gle/sPxKG2p2dTrdm3UM6

If the change is approved, the updated badge will appear on all newly purchased school uniform. However, there will be no need to replace any existing uniform. Children can continue wearing uniform with the current badge for as long as they wish.

We are pleased that our School Council have taken the initiative to consider how our school is represented and have brought forward this proposal for the wider school community to consider.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to hearing your views.

School Communicatiom

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent school communication survey. It was encouraging to receive such positive feedback about our communication, including the newsletter, our new website and Seesaw. Parents commented on how clear and easy to use the website is, the usefulness of the information shared and how responsive teachers are to messages.

We also received some helpful suggestions. One was to remove dates from the newsletter once events have passed, so we have now started greying these out to make upcoming dates easier to identify. There was also a request for PTA meeting minutes to be available on the website, and we will arrange for these to be uploaded.

A suggestion was made about giving parents the opportunity to share ideas about how PTA funds are spent. All parents automatically become members of the PTA when their child joins the school and are very welcome to attend meetings, where there is an opportunity to contribute ideas and discuss how funds can best support our children.

There was a comment about the need to update the school website. Our new website has recently been launched and contains a wide range of information for families, so please do take some time to explore it. There was also a request to include more information about clubs. Our clubs timetable can already be found under the School section of the website, and I have included further information about clubs in this newsletter.

A couple of parents mentioned that the amount of communication can sometimes feel overwhelming and difficult to keep on top of. This is useful feedback, and something we will continue to reflect on. There is a balance to be found between keeping everyone well informed and ensuring that the volume of information remains manageable. Your comments will help us review how and when we share information.

Thank you again for your feedback, both positive and constructive. We value the views of our families and want to keep improving the way we communicate. Working together and listening to one another is an important part of our school community, and we are grateful for your continued support.

CLUBS

It is lovely to see so many children enjoying the wide range of clubs and activities on offer. There really is something for everyone! Information about all our clubs, including the full timetable, can be found on our school website.

Cricket
We have seen limited interest in our after-school and lunchtime Cricket Club, so we are looking at offering this as a Monday morning Breakfast Club instead. Sessions will take place in the hall during the colder months and move outside onto the field in the summer. Our first session will be a FREE trial on Monday 16th November. Please register your interest via ParentPay.

Music Opportunities
We are continuing to offer FREE musical tuition in ukulele and recorder, with Mrs Anderson. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn an instrument, develop their musical skills and begin to understand how to read music. Please register your interest via ParentPay.

We also offer paid piano and violin lessons through Bromley Music Trust for children who would like to take their musical learning further. Please express your interest via the school office.

After-School Clubs
There are plenty of exciting after-school activities available! Bookings for Tennis, Gymnastics and Robotics are made through Three Thirty. Unfortunately, Street Art has been cancelled due to limited interest. Bookings for Juventus Taekwondo and Centre Stage are made directly with the providers. Links to all providers can be found on our school website.

Lunchtime Clubs
We have a great selection of lunchtime clubs available. The full club timetable and further information can be found on our school website. Please register your child's interest via ParentPay if they would like to take part.

Touch Rugby
We are delighted that Mrs Wedderspoon has offered to run a Touch Rugby Club on Wednesday mornings before school, starting next week. Mrs Wedderspoon coaches at a local rugby club and has excellent skills and experience to share. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to try a new sport, develop their skills and enjoy an active start to the day.

Mrs Wedderspoon would also love to encourage more children to get involved in rugby at Westcombe Park Rugby Club in Orpington on Sunday mornings. The first few sessions are completely FREE, giving children the chance to meet the coaches, enjoy the sessions and see if they like the sport before making any commitment. If your child would like to continue after the trial sessions, they can then sign up as a club member. Children of all abilities are welcome, and no previous rugby experience is needed.

It is wonderful to see children making the most of these opportunities, discovering new interests, learning new skills and, most importantly, having fun. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide such a varied and exciting programme of activities!

RunPudsey

Our faith team, the Mini Menas, are organising a RunPudsey Fun Run for BBC Children in Need on Friday 13th November, and we would love as many children as possible to get involved!

The Mini Menas will be leading the way as children run, jog or walk around the school field, taking on fun fitness stops and Pudsey-themed challenges along the way. Everyone can join in at their own pace, making it a fun and inclusive event for all.
If your child would like to take part, please sign them up through our school's RunPudsey page using the code **17C1**.

https://www.runpudsey.co.uk/school/st-philomenas-primary-school

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to put their faith into action, living out Catholic Social Teaching through kindness, compassion and solidarity with children and families who need our support.

Ready, steady... RunPudsey!

Pre School

It was a pleasure to welcome Ann-Marie from Our Lady of the Crays Pre-School to St. Philomena's this week. The pre-school provides a warm, caring and nurturing environment rooted in the Catholic faith and currently has places available for families seeking a pre-school setting. It was lovely to strengthen our connections within our wider Catholic community and to begin planning opportunities for our children to visit the pre-school, for their children to visit us, and for us to enjoy some shared activities and experiences together.

Anti Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, children are invited to wear odd socks on 16th November to school to celebrate our differences and what makes each of us unique. With Catholic Social Teaching at the heart of our school, this is an opportunity to remind children of the dignity of every person, created in the image of God, and the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect. We look forward to seeing lots of colourful odd socks!

Catholic Virtue

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the importance of being prepared and keeping our faith strong. In the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, Jesus tells of ten young women waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom. Five are wise and bring extra oil for their lamps, while the other five are unprepared. When the bridegroom finally arrives, only those who are ready are able to join the wedding celebration.

This reminds us that we should always be ready to welcome Jesus into our lives. Just as the wise bridesmaids kept their lamps burning, we are called to keep our faith alive through prayer, kindness and the choices we make each day. Being prepared means living out our faith, even when no one is watching.

We can reflect on how we keep our faith alive in our own lives:
Do we make time for God through prayer and reflection?
How can we show that we are ready to follow Jesus through our words and actions?



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



A Note on the From the School Council

Liam and Teddy - Head Boys
We have had our School Council meeting this month and have been busy sharing ideas from our classes! We would love to raise funds to improve our library and playground. One idea is to create different playground areas, including a sports zone and a free-play zone, where children of all ages can play together. This would also give siblings in different year groups more time to enjoy playing together. We have also been collecting articles for our very own school newspaper and are really excited to get this published. We can't wait to share it with everyone!

Sofia and Keira – Head Girls
We have been thinking about ways to make our school even better! We are exploring ideas to improve our playground, including the possibility of adding a new play structure for everyone to enjoy. We would also love to make our library more welcoming, with extra shelves to display our lovely books. We want it to be a happy, cosy place where everyone can enjoy reading and discovering new stories. We have lots of exciting ideas and can't wait to see what we can make happen!

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.

EXCELLENCE	RESPECT	COMMUNITY
ISHE	AMELIA	MORIAH
ZARA	IKEME	SANAA
AMELIE	KAYSON	ARIA
HUGO	MICHAEL	AURORA
MIA	KAOSIS	TIMI
EDEN	KAI	DAVID
PETER	RYAN	KYRA

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	5
YEAR 1	93	1
YEAR 2	100	1
YEAR 3	99	1
YEAR 4	98	0
YEAR 5	100	2
YEAR 6	96	0
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

Looksmaxing is an online trend focused on improving one's physical appearance, particularly among boys and young men. At the mild end, it can involve grooming, skincare, diet and exercise advice, sometimes called "softmaxing". At its extremes, or "hardmaxing", it can involve dangerous practices and contribute to body image concerns, low self-worth, and mental health dificulties.

