St. Philip's
RC Primary School

Monday 16th November 2026

IMPORTANT: Advent and Christmas Events Letter

Dear Families,

This letter includes all key dates and information for your diary leading up to the Christmas holidays. I can appreciate that this is a very busy time, so this letter aims to give you all the information required so we can be as organised as possible. Please take the time to read the information provided. I apologise for the length of this letter, however, as a parent myself I always find it useful to have all the information in one place to keep referring to. A copy of it will be uploaded to the website and the dates will also be available in our key dates section for your reference too.

Advent Bag

As part of our Advent celebrations, each child will have the opportunity to bring home our special Advent Bag for one evening. Inside, you will find a selection of special items to help you create a prayer focus at home. We invite you to spend a time together as a family reading and reflecting on the Christmas story, sharing the prayers and thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. We hope this will be a lovely opportunity to pause, reflect and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus during this special season of Advent. Once you have enjoyed your time together, please return the bag to school the following day so another family can enjoy it too!





The Giving Manger

This year, we will be celebrating the festive season by taking part in our very own Giving Manger activity in class. A Giving Manger is a lovely way of teaching children about the true meaning of Christmas and the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others. The idea is that, just as the baby Jesus was laid in a manger, we will prepare a little manger in our classroom and fill it with straw. Each time a child carries out a kind act, helps someone or shows thoughtfulness towards others, they will be able to add a piece of straw to the manger. As the children fill the manger with their acts of kindness, they will be preparing a cosy bed for baby Jesus and learning that the greatest gift we can give is kindness to others.

Christmas Pantomime – Monday 23rd November 2026 – A Christmas Carol

A pantomime has been booked for all pupils to enjoy on Monday 23rd November at school to get us into the swing of festivities leading up to Christmas. The cost of the Pantomime is £5 per pupil. This payment will be set up on your ParentPay account.

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School Games Gold 2021/22
Diocese of Salford
Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Y1 Advent Assembly –Tuesday 1st December 2026

Our Year 1 pupils will be leading us in an Advent Assembly to mark the beginning of this special time where we prepare for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This will take place in the school hall at 9.00am. Family members are welcome to join us.

PTA School and Parish Christmas Fair - Thursday 3rd December 2026 – 5pm – 7pm



The Christmas fair is on Thursday 4th December. Entrance to the fair will only be via the top playground through the gates on Cavendish Road. Please ensure you have confirmation of your purchased tickets on entry. Tickets can also be purchased on entry too. Please try to bring the correct change and cash for the stalls and events (change is always handy for the floats). All children must be accompanied by an adult. df

Tickets can be purchased on the PTA website and you will be notified when they go on sale. : St Philips RC PTA

Volunteers for the Christmas Fair

Our school fairs are always fantastic events and are warmly enjoyed by our whole school community. However, they cannot happen without the support of our wonderful families volunteering their time. At the moment, we have only a very small number of volunteers for our Christmas Fair and we really need your help! We are kindly asking family members to give up a little of their time to help make the fair a success. You don't need to volunteer for the whole event. If we have enough helpers, we can divide the time into manageable slots. We would also really appreciate help with setting up before the fair and clearing away afterwards too. Please let the PTA or school office know if you are able to help. Every little bit of help makes a difference, and together we can make this another fantastic event for our children and families. Thank you so much for your support.

Christmas Fair Donations

To support our annual Christmas Fair, children can wear their own clothes and bring a donation to school on the days outlined below. We are incredibly grateful to all our families for the donations that we receive for this event.

Please see the table below for donation details:

Christmas Fair: Own Clothes Donation Days	
Friday 27th November	**Chocolate or big bagged sweets** for our sweet treat tombola.
Wednesday 2nd December	**Bottles:** these will be used on our bottle tombola. A table will be outside each entrance where bottles can be left in the morning to keep children safe and avoid any breakages and spillages.

'Make the world better with a sweater!' - CAFOD Christmas Jumper Day Friday 4th December 2026

Children are invited to swap their school jumpers for their Christmas jumpers to school and make a £1 cash donation. All proceeds will go to CAFOD World Gifts. Each class will collectively choose Worlds Gifts to purchase with their collated donations. Please see the link for more information about CAFOD World Gifts. CAFOD World Gifts – CAFOD World Gifts

EYFS Nativity- 'The Sleepy Shepherd'- Tuesday 8th December 2026

Our EYFS will perform their Nativity, 'The Sleepy Shepherd', on Tuesday 8th December at 9.15am in the school hall. Family members are warmly invited to come along and watch.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Party Day – Tuesday 15th December 2026

Christmas Dinner and Party Day will take place on Tuesday 15th December. Children can wear their festive party clothes. They may bring a drink and **one small snack** to eat for the party afternoon. **All snacks must be nut free.**

Special Visitor and Christmas Movie Afternoon – Friday 11th December 2026

Children will enjoy a Christmas movie with their friends. Children may bring **one small snack (no nuts please).** They will wear their school uniform as usual on this day. A very special person will be visiting St. Philip's on this day too - this is a surprise for all our children!

Christmas Musical Evening – Tuesday 8th December 2026 and Wednesday 9th December 2026

The Christmas Musical Evenings will take place at school on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December. Both performances will take place at school at 6pm. Each class, from Y1- Y6, will perform on one of the evenings. **The choir will perform on both evenings.** Although the musical evening begins at 6pm, children will need to arrive promptly at school via the main pupil entrance at 5.30pm. **Please ensure children are dropped off at pupil entrance door by an adult.** Children will be performing in the school hall and then collected when the whole performance finishes. Details of where classes will be dismissed will be shared closer to the evenings.

Tickets for the Musical Evening will be sold under the gazebo on the top playground before and after the school day from Monday 23rd November. The cost is £3.50 per ticket. If you are unable to purchase a ticket at these times, please send money in an envelope marked clearly with your child's name and we can send the tickets home with your child. Please only purchase 2 tickets per family to begin with so that all families can watch their child in the performance. We will sell any additional tickets on Friday 4th December and Monday 6th December. Please do respect this request to ensure we do not exceed hall capacity and have a safe and festive evening. Mulled wine and mince pies will be sold on the evening.

Information about which evening your child will perform on is summarised below:

Tuesday 8th December – Evening 1	**Wednesday 9th December – Evening 2**
Class 3- Mrs Welsh	Class 4- Miss Ryman
Class 5- Miss Lavelle	Class 6- Miss Kildunne
Class 8- Miss McCardle	Class 7- Miss Watson
Class 10- Mrs Moore	Class 9 – Mr Houston
Class 12- Mr Marshall	Class 11- Mr Cooper
Choir	Choir

As always, thank you for your continuous support. I look forward to celebrating this special time in our school.

Miss McNamara

Key Christmas Dates	
Monday 23rd November 2026	**Pantomime in School - M&M Productions - A Christmas Carol**
Friday 27th November 2026	**Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fair Donations - Chocolates**
Tuesday 1st December 2026	**Y1 Advent Assembly at 9:00am**
Wednesday 2nd December 2026	**Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fair Donations - Bottles**
Thursday 3rd December 2026	**PTA Parish Christmas Fair**
Friday 4th December 2026	**Christmas Jumper Day - £1 Donation for CAFOD**
Tuesday 8th December 2026	**EYFS Nativity Production 9.15am**
Tuesday 8th December 2026	**Christmas Musical Evening 1 - 6pm (children arrive 5.30pm at school)**
Wednesday 9th December 2026	**Christmas Musical Evening 2 - 6pm (children arrive 5.30pm at school)**
Friday 11th December 2026	**Secret Visitor to School and Christmas Movie Afternoon**
Tuesday 15th December 2026	**Christmas Dinners & Class Parties**
Thursday 17th December 2026	**School Closes at 1:00pm**

Attached is our website link to ALL key dates for the Autumn Term. School Dates -St. Philip's R.C. Primary School