

ST PHILIP HOWARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

01707 263969

www.sphoward.herts.sch.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 7th September 8.15am

Helping your child in Y6 & applying for Secondary School

Thursday 17th September

8.15am

Helping your child in Year Reception- **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE**

Wednesday 9th September

8.15am

Helping your child in Years 4 and 5

Mass for the beginning of term - everyone welcome

Thursday 10th September

8.15am

Helping your child in Years 2 and 3

Friday 11th September 8.15am

Helping your child in Year 1

Sunday 13th September 11.30am

Education Sunday

Children participating in mass at St Peter's

Monday 14th September

Helping your child in Discoverers

Friday 18th September

Friends' Summer BBQ



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone! It has been lovely to see everyone return to school with such excitement.

During the summer holidays we had a new surface put in under the trim trail, drainage across Foundation Stage playground, the Year 1 / 2 toilets repaired, the Edwards' Suite redeveloped into 2 classrooms with toilets, sinks etc and several trees in the forest maintained.

The beginning of term is always busy for staff as we undertake training. This year the focus has been on safeguarding and all the training needed in relation to allergies, using epipens and Benedict's Law.

As well as welcoming new pupils we welcomed Miss Sims (3S) and Miss Foley (4F) to the teaching staff.

Today in assembly our focus was looking at our many talents and how we are going to use them this year.

Next week is a very busy in the mornings with the, How to help our child meetings. They will take place in the school hall. Children and siblings will be supervised on the playground. The first meeting is for Year 6 parents and will include how to apply for secondary school.

Sunday 13th September

Next Sunday is Education Sunday and our school is going to be involved with the 11.30 mass at St Peter's - greeting at the door, readings, procession, choir, offertory and after mass running the cake sale in the hall (donations very welcome). More information will be sent out on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mairéad Waugh
Headteacher

St Philip Howard Catholic School

Term Dates 2026-2027

Please note that the half term dates may be different to local schools.

Autumn Term	
INSET DAYS	Tuesday 1st September 2026 , Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Autumn 1	Thursday 3rd September 2026- Wednesday 21st October 2026
INSET DAYS	Thursday 22nd October 2026 Friday 23rd October 2026
Half Term	Thursday 22nd October 2026- Sunday 1st November 2026
Autumn 2 Term	Monday 2nd November 2026- Friday 18th December 2026
Occasional Day	Monday 7th December 2026
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 19th December 2026- Sunday 3rd January 2027
Spring Term	
Spring 1 Term	Monday 4th January 2027- Friday 12th February 2027
Half Term	Saturday 13th February 2027- Sunday 21st February 2027
Spring 2 Term	Monday 22nd February 2027- Thursday 25th March 2027
Easter Holidays	Friday 26th March 2027 - Sunday 11th April 2027
Summer Term	
Summer 1 Term	Monday 12th April 2027- Thursday 27th May 2027
Half Term	Friday 28th May 2027- Monday 7th June 2027
INSET DAY	Monday 7th June 2027
Summer 2	Tuesday 8th June 2027- Friday 23rd July 2027

PARENT GUIDE

ABOUT NUMBOTS

What is NumBots?	NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence.
Why is NumBots important?	Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts. NumBots covers number recognition, number bonds, addition and subtraction of double digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.
How often should my child play?	We recommend a little and often approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 times a week is a good target.

LOGGING IN

What is my child's username and password?	Your child's teacher will provide a unique username and password (or picture pin). Please encourage your child not to share their password with others.
How does my child log in?	Log in to NumBots on a browser at play.numbots.com and select Schools > Pupils > enter the school name or postcode. Select the correct school and then enter their username and password/pin details.
Is there an App?	Yes, there is an app for Amazon, Android and Apple devices. Please go to the relevant app store to download the app for free.

HOW THE GAME WORKS

Who is Rusty?	Rusty is the central character of NumBots who needs help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade himself to a shiny diamond bot. Children progress through the game, unlocking levels and upgrading Rusty as they go.
How does my child accessorise their Bot Avatar?	When your child first logs in they will be able to choose a Bot Name and Bot Avatar. Coins earned by answering maths questions correctly can be spent in the Custom Shack on new parts to personalise their own robot.
What is Story Mode?	Story Mode consists of 18 stages, each containing numerous levels which players must pass to unlock the next, focusing on conceptual understanding of core maths. Using a variety of visual representations, Story Mode introduces different calculation strategies in a carefully designed way.
What is Challenge Mode?	Challenge Mode consists of rapid responses to essential maths facts against the clock. Each of the 30 challenges focuses on a key skill or objective, and each game lasts 1 minute. Unlike Story Mode, all of the challenges are available to play as soon as Challenge Mode is unlocked.

LEARNERS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

The questions are too hard	Encourage your child to be resilient and try each question a number of times. They are not expected to pass the level first time! They can also press the 'T' icon for further instructions if they are stuck. If they are still struggling, please speak to your child's teacher.
My child is unable to pass a level	To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass a level, children must be both accurate and timely with their answers. If your child is getting 0 or 1 stars, they need to answer more quickly. This is deliberate, as it ensures that they have the number fluency required to move on to the next level. If your child cannot progress any further, we suggest going back to previous levels where they scored 2 stars and trying to score 3 stars on them all. Once completed with 3 stars, they should be fluent enough to pass the current level they're stuck on. If your child still needs more time to answer the questions, speak to their teacher about relaxing the time constraints in the accessibility settings.
My child gets anxious playing in Challenge Mode	The timer can be hidden in Challenge Mode via the settings. Press the 'Show Timer' toggle and ensure the 'Show Timer' toggle is switched off.
My child has visual impairments; what settings are available?	Head to settings (press the gear icon) where the colour scheme can be changed to high contrast colour settings, which also helps to reduce the visual stimuli and declutter the screen. Children can also press the speaker icon next to each question for it to be read out loud.

TROUBLESHOOTING

My child's coins have suddenly dropped	Another child may have logged in as your child. Please reassure your child that this can be rectified. Contact their teacher who can set a new password, refund any coins and talk to the class about online safety.
My child has forgotten their login details	Please contact your child's teacher for a reminder, as the NumBots team are unable to provide login details to parents for data protection reasons.
My child finds it too easy	We encourage all pupils to start at the very beginning of Story Mode, even those with strong maths skills, as they can progress through the early levels quickly which will help reaffirm the basics and make connections with the more difficult questions. You can speak to their teacher who can skip the first topics if needed.
How can I tell if my child has completed their Activity Goal set by the teacher?	When logged in, your child will be able to see how many minutes they have left remaining to reach their weekly goal in Game Data on the Game Modes screen. Once they have achieved their weekly Activity Goal, an animation of an arrow hitting a target will appear on their screen.
Is NumBots safe?	Yes. There are no adverts, no in-app purchases nor any chat functions. See more in our Privacy Notice (mathscircle.com/privacy-notice).

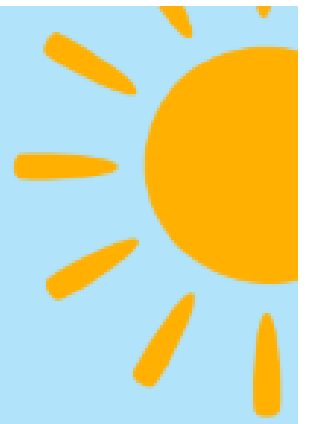


PE and Forest School Days

Year Group	Forest School Day	PE Day (s)
Nursery	Monday	Thursday
Reception	Wednesday	Friday
Yr 1	Wednesday	Wednesday Friday
Yr 2	Monday	Monday Friday
Yr 3	Tuesday	Tuesday Wednesday
Yr 4	Friday	Tuesday Friday
Yr 5	Thursday	Tuesday Thursday
Yr 6	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday
Discoverers		Thursday *and additional days with their base class.

Please ensure your children are wearing PE uniform on these days. PE can take place outside, and Forest school requires all children to cover their arms and legs. |

THE FRIENDS OF
ST PHILIP HOWARD
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND



Welcome BBQ

FRI 18TH SEPT ~ 3.15 TO 6.00PM

Inflatables

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR
HOW TO BOOK YOUR
INFLATABLES TIME SLOT

Stalls & Games

BBQ



Fire Engine

and much more...

Refreshments



The friends of
St Philip Howard

Family Support

We are pleased to inform you that we have been updating our school website and have transferred all posters, advertising Family Support Services, Family Events and Activities onto our Parent's Page.

To access additional information, please use the links available within the thumbprint posters below, or alternatively directly through our [School website](#).

The rules about who is eligible for Free School meals have changed. Your child can have free school lunches:

- If you get Universal Credit – even if only receiving £1
- You have NRTPF

Please use this link to register

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>



POP-UP SKILLS CHALLENGE

WHEN?
September 2026
Saturday 5th September
From 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE?
The Howard Centre
Howardsgate
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6HA

WHY?
We want to show you how Super Skills Training System can help your child
• Rapidly improve their skills
• Boost their confidence
• Shine as the best player on their football team!

The Pop-Up will include:
• Skill Challenges
• Chance to meet the coaches
• More information on how to join our weekly classes

WWW.SUPERSKILLSOCCER.CO.UK

PLAY RUGBY AT WELWYN

NEW SEASON
Starting
Sunday 6th September

Boys and Girls
U6 - U18
School Years 1-13

Try out your first three weeks for free!

for more information and to sign up
membership@welwynrugby.co.uk

Hatfield Town Centre
EVENTS 2026

A WHALE'S STORY CALL FOR CHANGE
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026 • 11AM - 5PM
WHITE LION SQUARE

ALL activities FREE

AN IMMERSIVE MARINE-THEMED EXPERIENCE
LIVE COOKING DEMOS BY FIVE DINNERS
LIBRARY STORY TIME 11:30AM - 11:45AM
LIBRARY ARTS & CRAFTS 12PM - 1:30PM
FACE PAINTING... & MUCH MORE!
one.welhat.gov.uk/events

3 hours FREE parking in The Common car park with a displayed ticket

Funded by UK Government