

Dear parents/carers

Hello!

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well as we continue through the second half of our autumn term. Please read our newsletter for information and keep a note of key dates .

Catholic Life

This half term, we will be focussing on the virtues: **Faith-filled and Hopeful**



Pupils are growing to be **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future. Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in themselves and others.

November is the month dedicated to Holy Souls in the Church's Liturgical year. Throughout November, we pray for repose of the soul of those who have died and for the souls of those in purgatory. We also pray for faith and hope of new life with God in heaven.

Pope's Francis' Monthly Intention



NOVEMBER

For children who suffer

During the month of November Pope Francis asks us to pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Sacramental Preparation: Children in Year 3 and years 5 and 6 were enrolled for their sacrament of the Eucharist and Confirmation on Sunday 6th November at our school /parish mass by Father Damian, It was lovely to see a high attendance in the church . Thank you parents for your commitment. Classes will be starting shortly with Miss Anslow our RE leader in school.

First Communion

If your child is a **Baptised Catholic** and is in year 3 or 4 and you wish them to make their sacrament of the Eucharist, then please pop into the school office or see Miss Anslow/ Father Damian and we can help you with the necessary paperwork.

Confirmation

If your child is a baptised Catholic and is currently in year 5 or 6 and you wish them make the sacrament of Confirmation, then please come and speak to Miss Anslow , or Father Damian after mass or pop into the school office and we can support you.

Please note ! The Confirmation cycle at St Philip's is every two years when your child can make their sacrament .

Curriculum News

What's been going on in school recently?



In addition to all the fantastic learning in our classrooms, we have also been learning outside the classroom; here are a few of the highlights from the last few weeks...

Black History Month

During the month of October, each class spent time learning about a key figure in Black History. The children learned about the key figures in history through English, history, art, music and shared their knowledge and understanding with their friends in the other classes. The children really enjoyed learning about the key figures in history.

Remembrance day

On Friday 11th November we will come together to observe the 2 minute silence to remember the fallen. We will remember the armed forces in our world that are still active around the world and we remember the countries in our world that are affected by war and conflict.

Into Film Month

During this month classes from across the school have had the opportunity to visit the Cinema across Birmingham. The Into Film project has enabled our school to be involved to experience the cinema and see new releases of movies. This is a very popular project with all schools and the films that the children have seen are linked to their topic within the curriculum and gives our children the opportunity to experience the cinema and learn from visual literacy.

Anti -Bullying Week

The week beginning 14th November is National Anti-Bullying Week. During the week the children will be joining in activities to look at aspects of all bullying, cyber, mobile phone and other aspects of bullying. We hope that by the end of this important week the children have a clear understanding of how to identify signs and what to do to get help. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

On Friday 11th November we had a theatre company in school to work with the children in years 3-6 in KS2. The classes were involved in workshops experiencing what to do in situations and scenarios whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, the children will gain confidence in reaching out and showing each other the support we need and how to reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk.

To launch anti-bullying week on Monday all children are invited to wear ODD SOCKS for the day to support the national effort for anti-bullying.

COP 27

Our Eco-team has launched an appeal to all children to get involved and help make change in tackling climate change. The children have been asked to write a letter to our Prime Minister Rishi Shunak to pledge their own appeal for change. Well done children!

Clothes Donations

Our Eco-team and Mrs Stevens will be launching a Clothing donation project next week. Your child will receive a bag for you to fill with your un-wanted clothes, shoes , and coats . we will then ask you to return the full bags to school in the week beginning 21st November. the filled clothing bags will be collected by a charity to be sent to

war torn countries and school will receive a cheque to go to the school. Please help with this wonderful project the children are dedicated too.

Mission team and Mini-Vinnies

The mini-Vinnie's have been very active this half term to look at ways of raising money to go worthwhile charities. The children have been instrumental in raising money for CAFOD and McMillian charities . For this month, the group have chosen to support St Philip Neri church with the donation of Chocolate to their Christmas Fayre. A huge thank parents for your support, dedication and commitment to helping the children raise funds to make a difference.

Off-site Visits

Children have represented our school at a number of important events, SAFER 6 where the children met the Lord Mayor of Sandwell, a range of teams that help us to be safe and who look after us in our community .Our children have attended football tournaments and other sporting events .

Modern foreign languages

Within our curriculum in Key stage 2 the children learn another language. Our chosen language for the school is Spanish. As part of national languages day, we had a Spanish Flamenco Dancer visit school to showcase dancing and give the children to opportunity to learn Spanish music and dances. It was a great success, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their lessons.

Uniform PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.

Thank you parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school so smart. Please can I share , There should be no hair sculptures or tram lines, shaving, highlights or hair colouring of any description. Extreme hairstyles should only be considered at the beginning of the summer holiday. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

Physical Education is an important part of our school curriculum. Please ensure that your child has their PE kits in school ready to take part in PE lessons.

Year group	Day of the week	Activity
Nursery -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Reception –	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 1 –	Friday afternoon	Teaching leading
Year 2 –	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 3 -	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 4 –	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 5 –	Monday morning	Swimming
Year 6 –	Monday afternoon	Sports coach

A reminder that for the duration of the autumn term, children should come to school wearing their PE kit (tracksuit) on their designated PE day listed above. PE kit to school – this should consist of a plain white T-shirt and black/ blue joggers, school jumper or cardigan pumps or sensible trainers. I would like to remind you that this is the only agreed PE kit in school.

Healthy choices

Also, as part of our healthy lifestyle agenda, we ask that the children choose a healthy choice for playtimes and lunchboxes. Please support your children to choose healthy options and not sugary foods options.

Jewellery

Please remember that only small stud earrings are allowed in school and **no other** jewellery, nail varnish or make-up is permitted. Earrings should not be worn on PE days. New piercings should only be done at the beginning of the holidays so that they are healed sufficiently to be able to be taken out for PE days.

Afterschool clubs

This half term our afterschool clubs have started. The clubs are led by staff in school. Some clubs have proved very popular and we will endeavour to support you with your child/ren getting an afterschool club place . But we cannot guarantee that if you have signed up for a club each night that your child/ren will get a place at all the clubs.

School information

Next week we will be sending updated forms to you to share with us any changes that happened since the last academic year started.

Please ensure you provide us with any MEDICAL INFORMATION for your child/ren. The forms give us medical information about your child, emergency contacts details and allergies /if you may be entitled to free school meals.



Contact Details

If your contact details have changed since the new term started and are different to the details we have had on record, please ensure that you let us know of any new numbers or emergency contacts numbers or other information for us to contact you directly. During this time, our communication with you is limited by email or text. Please contact us by telephone, using the office email address and we will update your information.

I CANNOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INFORMATION BEING RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

Thank You !

Other information

Nursery places — please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for this year. If you have child has turned 3 years old or will be within the term, please get in contact and we will be happy to support with completing the application forms and supporting you. If you wish to find out about 15 hours provision please contact us.



St Philip's Catholic Primary School
Learning and working together through Christ

Nursery Places Available
FREE 30 HOURS
FOR WORKING PARENTS

Ring us now on 0121 558 1643 to find out more

Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

The image features a blue and white background with a shield logo containing a cross and the letters 'SP'. There are three circular inset photos showing children in a classroom setting.

Open morning for Reception for new parents for children starting Reception in 2023

A letter will be going out next week to invite NEW parents to school who are looking for a school place in reception for your child in September 2023.

Please note !

If your child is ready to start Reception class in September 2023 . You will now need to be thinking about completing the school place application on line with Sandwell Local authority. The applications need to be submitted by [Applying for a Reception Place / | Sandwell Council](#)

The application process is now open and closes 15 January 2023.

Safeguarding

We are dedicated to safeguarding our young people at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. If you have any concerns with safeguarding, then please speak with a member of staff or myself and we will endeavour to help and support. The **Designated Safeguarding Leader in school is Mrs Hinton, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer is Mr Wilkes** and Safeguarding Officers are Mrs Evans, Mrs Hill and Mr Padaton. Please come forward to talk to us if you are concerned or worried. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our MAC and the Local Authority of Sandwell.

Here to help

Nothing is more important than to ensure the happiness, well-being and academic progress of all children in our school. If you have a concern or worry, then please DO NOT let them build up. Please contact us by telephone and we will work hard to sort them out for you. You can call the school on **0121 558 1643** or email office@emmausmac.com and we will endeavour to help and support you. Please also view the website to view other important information.

Key Dates	Event
Monday 14 th November	Launch of anti-bullying week ODD SOCK DAY
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Friday 18 th November	Launch of Rags to Riches – Clothes donations.
Monday 21 st November	Road safety week
Wednesday 23 rd November	PARENTS EVENING for YEAR RECEPTION – YEAR 6
Friday 25 th November	Open day in Nursery for parents who currently have a child in nursery . (please see flyer)
w/b Monday 28 th November	First week of advent Who Do You think you are week ? focus on cultures and traditions
Monday 28 th November (afternoon)	Open morning for parents to tour the school who are thinking of applying for Reception class in 2023.
Tuesday 29 th November	RML workshop for parents who have children in year 1 and 2 .
W/B 5th December	Reconciliation service for children year 3 – 6
W/B 5th December	Christmas productions – please note a separate letter will be shared
Tuesday 13 th December	Christmas lunch Christmas Jumper day
Wednesday 14 th December	KS2 Carol Concert
Thursday 15 th December	Children's Christmas parties and Disco
Friday 16 th December	End of the term School closes for Christmas break.

Please see term dates below for the year ahead.

Term Dates for the academic year		2022- 2023	
Autumn Term 2022		Event	
Monday 5 th and 6 th September		New academic year starts - teacher training days	
Wednesday 7 th September		Pupils return to school	
Friday 8 th October	Training Day—School closed to pupils	Teacher Training Day—School closed to pupils	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Friday 21 st October		Pupils break up for half term	
Monday 31 st October		Pupils return to school	
Friday 16 th December		Pupils break up for the Christmas break	
Spring Term 2023			
Monday 3 rd January		Pupils return to school	
Friday 17 th February		Pupils break up for half term	
Monday 27 th February		Pupils return to school	
Friday 31 st March		Pupils Break up for Easter	
Summer Term 2023			
Monday 17 th April		Pupils return to school	
Monday 1 st May		May Day Bank Holiday School closed to pupils	
Friday 26 th May		Pupils break up for half term	
Monday 5 th June		Pupils return to school	
Friday 23 rd June		Teacher Training Day—School closed to pupils	
Tuesday 25 th July		Pupils break up for summer	