



17th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Hello!

We have come to the end of a very busy half term and we are looking forward to the half term break. I would like to thank you for your on-going support throughout this academic year.

Year 5 Pyramid Concert

We are very proud of our year 5 children who have been involved in practicing for the concert that is taking place this evening. Thank you parents also for all your help and support with preparing our wonderful children for the concert. They have been amazing!

Changes to the school office

We have said goodbye to Mrs Agnes Kopiec who has left our school office. We congratulate her on her new post and all the best for the future. Mrs Rachel Slater will be taking up her post of 5 days in the school office.

With the on-going changes to the government guidance, we hope soon that things will be starting to look more like normal for school life, but this comes with caution and we will continue to keep the safety measures in place below:

These safety measures include:



Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.

1. **Hand hygiene** – We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
2. **Respiratory hygiene** - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
3. **Maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes** - regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.



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4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated - Opening external windows to improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors to assist with creating airflow. We will of course balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children to learn in.

5. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 -

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test they should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

They should not come into school if they have symptoms and has a positive Lateral Flow Test result. Please ensure you CONTACT SCHOOL when your child is ill, or displaying symptoms of CORONAVIRUS. Once you have contacted school we can support you through this time and offer help in the right direction.

Breakfast Club

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club, please book a place on the SCHOOLCOMMS system the day before by 3:00pm. The cost is £1:50 per session and the club starts from 7:30am – 8:40 am. If you would like more information, please call the school office and they will be happy to help.

Afterschool clubs

There will be a flyer coming home after half term and afterschool clubs will start the week beginning 7th March. You will be able to book via SCHOOLCOMMS for you and your child to book places, or for more details contact the school office.

Dolce lunches

Please continue to book your child's lunch via SCHOOL GRID from home to ensure that your child has selected the menu of their choice. We also ask you at home to upload your child's allergies, if they have any onto SCHOOLGRID **This is very important that we know this information.** There is a new menu for this term, please log on and view. Please also remember that when your child moves into year 3 and you are not entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS, then you can pay for a hot meal £2.25 or provide a packed lunch.

St Philip's
Catholic Primary School
Messenger Road,
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643
www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, then contact the school office and we will be happy to help. You can get a form and leaflet about free school meals from the office that will support with your entitlement.

P.E Days and P.E Kits

Physical development continues the same after half term. Please see the table below for your child's year group.

A reminder that for the duration of this spring 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 blue shorts (weather permitting or 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.

Year group	Day of the week
Reception –	Tuesday morning
Year 1 –	Tuesday morning
Year 2 –	Tuesday morning
Year 3 -	Tuesday afternoon
Year 4 –	SWIMMING - MONDAY MORNING
Year 5 –	Tuesday afternoon
Year 6 –	Friday afternoon



School uniform, jewellery, nail varnish and hairstyles

All of the children are looking so smart in their school uniforms and we really thank you for all of the effort you have made to buy their school uniform during these difficult times. Please ensure your child's belongings all have their names on all items and if your child has gone home with clothing that **DOES NOT** belong to them, **PLEASE return the item to school.**

We thank you for following our school policy on uniform and we would like to remind you that ;

- we ask children to wear only black shoes, no trainers.
- Nail varnish, jewellery of any kind (including earrings) and hairstyles must be smart with long hair tied back for safety.



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- We don't allow any hair engravings or extreme shavings and children's hair must not be dyed or highlighted.
- The school is renowned for its high standard of uniform and we really appreciate the support you give us to uphold this. Thank you for all the efforts you continue to make – we appreciate it!

Whole School Assemblies/Collective worship

We hope that after half term that we will be able to gather together with more classes when assembly and collective worship is timetabled. We will keep you updated when we will be able to invite you into school.

Children's Belongings

After half term this spring term, please provide:

- Filled water bottle (to be taken home at the end of each day).
- Reading book and reading diary – kept in school bag.

Please also ensure that water bottles, lunch boxes and all items of clothing, in particular jumpers, cardigans and coats, are clearly marked with your child's name.

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 and other information for us to contact you directly. During this time, our communication with you is limited by email or text. Please contact us using the office email address and we will update your information.



Nursery places – Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for September 2021/2022. If you have a child who 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. Or if you wish to find out about 15 hours provision please contact us.

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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



Attendance and Punctuality / Notifying absence:

In line with policy guidelines and to ensure our attendance improves and lateness is reduced. The policy is in line with Education Welfare Guidance – nobody likes to think that their child is missing school or is frequently late but occasionally this can build up without parents being fully aware.

Our policy is designed to alert you to any potential problems:

- If your child's attendance drops below 90%, I will contact you in writing to let you know and offer my support to help improve their attendance.
- I will not be able to authorise holidays for anyone whose attendance is at 90% or below.
- If your child's attendance drops to 80% or below, I will contact you again to let you know I am unable to authorise any other absence.
- The exception to this is absence where medical proof is provided.
- Frequent unauthorised absences will trigger an automatic visit from the Education Welfare Officer.
- Children who are regularly late may be given a mark that indicates they are in school but that the lateness is unauthorised absence from lesson time.
- Frequent unauthorised absence will trigger a visit from the education welfare officer.

For these reasons, if you are having difficulties with attendance or timekeeping, it is essential you make contact with the school to discuss the matter.
If your child is going to be away from school, please let us know by phone or in person. For safety reasons we cannot accept messages passed on by other parents.

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Please call us on 0121 558 1643 before 9.15am. If we do not hear from you, the office will need to call you to make sure your child is safe.

Please understand that we have a **duty** to improve attendance and punctuality and to ensure everyone is safe.

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@st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk and we will endeavour to help and support you. Please also view the website to view other important information.

Please see the Term dates on the sheet attached.

Have a lovely half term.

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Spring Term 2022	
Tuesday 4th January	Pupils return to school
Friday 18th February	Pupils break up for half term
Monday 28th February	Pupils return to school
Friday 8th April	Pupils Break up for Easter
Summer Term 2022	
Monday 25th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 26th May	Pupils break up for half term
Friday 27th May	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Monday 6th June	Pupils return to school
Friday 24th June	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Friday 22nd July	Pupils break up for summer

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Hinton

Mrs C Hinton
Principal