



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hello!



Dear parents/carers

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well and had a lovely Christmas break. We welcome you all back to a new year and term at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. Please read our newsletter for information.

A big thank you children and parents for your kindness and generosity for the beautiful Christmas gifts you kindly gave to the staff at school and myself. Thank you.

We have entered into 2022 with a new Covid 19 variant and I do hope that you and your families have not being affected by the new variant. At school we continue to follow the government guidance to ensure we are all kept safe.



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.
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, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19

St Philip's
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Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

I cannot stress enough how important to 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. AS SHARED WITH YOU PREVIOUSLY, under the current guidance, we will no longer be required to send home a whole class of children to isolate if one individual in the class tests positive. Instead, that individual would be asked to isolate at home. Any close contacts of that individual will then be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would strongly encourage all individuals to take a test if advised to do so.

Thank you for sending your child/ren back to school this term looking very smart in their uniforms. Please can I remind you of a few things;

Haircuts

Please respect our policy. There should be no hair sculptures or tramlines, shaving, highlights or hair colouring of any description during term time. Extreme hairstyles should only be considered at the beginning of the summer holiday. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

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

Thank you for the children's participation in the afterschool clubs for this half term. The clubs now have been allocated and we still have some places left in two clubs. Please see the flyer that is coming out soon. Please remember to collect your child/ren from the back playground.

Young Voices Concert

Children from across school have been participating in Young Voices practice last term. Due to Covid-19 and the new variant the organisers have postponed the concert. Mrs Eaton will be sending a letter with more information.



Year 5 Pyramid Concert

At the start of the school year, our Year 5 class were chosen to work with the Music teacher from Hagley High Catholic School. The children have been working on their singing skills and preparing for a concert that will be hosted at Birmingham Town Hall with 10 other schools whom are within our MAC of The Emmaus MAC. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in, to perform to a wider audience, and to perform to family and friends.

The concert will take place on the 17th February at the Town Hall in Birmingham @ 7pm . the cost of the tickets per person will be £10:00. If you would like to purchase tickets and take part in this wonderful concert with our year 5 children, then please contact the school office for more details.



DOLCE Catering Providers

We are working very hard at school to ensure that your children have a happy lunchtime, where they can enjoy a hot dinner of their choice. It is really important that you and your child log on to the **SchoolGrid** website to make their lunchtime choices for the day or week. Please remind your child that the choice of meal that that have made with you is the one that they will receive the following day and an alternative cannot be chosen. **Please note that if you pay for meals all payments MUST be made in a timely manner via the SchoolGrid website as this may affect your child’s choice of lunch . The school office is happy to receive money if you are unable to pay using the App.**

Uniform PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.

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 -	Wednesday afternoon	Activity
Reception –	Tuesday morning	Teacher leading
Year 1 –	Tuesday morning	Teaching leading
Year 2 –	Tuesday morning	Sports coach
Year 3 -	Tuesday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 4 –	Monday morning	Swimming
Year 5 –	Tuesday morning	Sports coach
Year 6 –	Friday afternoon	Teacher leading

As Covid is still very high within our community, for the spring term children should come to school wearing their PE kit (tracksuit) on their designated PE day listed above.

PE kits 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.

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



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.



School information forms

At the start of the year, we sent home a number of forms to be completed and return to school. If these are still outstanding, please contact the school office.

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

The forms give us medical information about your child, emergency contacts details and allergies /if you may be entitled to free school meals. If you haven’t returned the forms, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

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.

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.



Parking

Please take care when parking and dropping off your child/ren at school. The school is very busy at the start of the day and the end of the day, we want all our children to arrive into school safely. Please **DO NOT** let your children walk across the roads by themselves. Please be careful and patient when you are driving around the school to ensure everyone is safe. When parking on Messenger Road, ensure that you do not park over residents drives, on the zig zags or the white H bars. There are traffic attendants within the local area, please be aware!

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 NOTE! THERE HAS BEEN AN ADDITIONAL TRAINING DATE ADDED TO THE TABLE BELOW. THIS WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2022 AND THIS WILL BE TEACHER TRAINING DAY FOR ALL THE MAC SCHOOLS

Term Dates for the academic year	Event
Autumn Term 2021	
Thursday 2nd September	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Friday 3rd September	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Monday 6th September	Start of Term—School open to all pupils
Friday 8 th October	Training Day—School closed to pupils
Friday 22nd October	Pupils break up for half term
Monday 1st November	Pupils Return to School
Friday 17th December	Pupils Break up for Christmas
Spring Term 2022	
Tuesday 4th January	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 2nd February	Training Day—School closed to pupils
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

Please note! There are additional INSET days that will be planned within the spring and summer term.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Hinton

Mrs C Hinton
Headteacher