



January 2025

Hello!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break.

A big heartfelt thank you for your beautiful cards, Christmas gifts and wishes you have kindly shared with our staff and myself at St Philip's.

Please take some time to read the school newsletter with key information and dates.

**Catholic School Pupil Profile**



**This half term we are focussing on:**

Pupils are growing to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for blessings of each day and **generous** with their gifts, both now and in the future.

**What does this mean?**

Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be **grateful** for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be **generous** in the service of others.

**Catholic Social Teaching**



**This half term we are focussing on:**

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.** We are **thinking** about how we can help others who are less fortunate than ourselves. In our lessons, in collective worship and Mass we dedicate our prayers to those in need.

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**LiveSimply**

We are living sustainably in school by using recycled materials in our arts and crafts. Please keep a look out on our X (previously Twitter) page for the wonderful work children are doing with recycled materials.



**The Pope's Prayer Intentions for January**

For the right to an education Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



**Pilgrims of Hope**

Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church.

This Jubilee Year 2025 will be centred on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

The Holy Father officially opened the Holy Year with the rite of the Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter on 24/12/24 and it will be finished on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

The door stands for Jesus; whoever enters through that door will be saved. In this Jubilee Year, our Pope Francis, after opening the Holy Door, was the first entering through that door. He invites all of us, the pilgrims of Hope, entering through that door, so that we may enter into God's life to share God's salvation. During this year our children will be involved in a range of activities to celebrate this special year of hope.

**Sacraments of Eucharist - First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

**First Holy Communion - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Currently Father Gerald will be returning at the end of January. If you wish your child to be involved in the preparations for receiving the sacraments this year, please come and speak to Mrs Anslow or myself and we will support you.

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## Curriculum Information



### Reading at home

Reading is a key life skill and through our Read Write Inc reading and phonics scheme we support children to develop skills that support children to read with confidence, enjoyment and have a love for reading. We really want to share with you how important it is to read with your child at home.

Your child is given a discussion book or reading book with a reading diary that goes home daily. At present we really would like to encourage parents to comment in the reading diary when your child is heard read at home.

### **Please take time with your child/ren to support children to read as shared in the 10 top tips for parents.**

- Encourage your child to read.
- Read aloud regularly.
- Encourage reading choice.
- Read together.
- Create a comfortable environment.
- Make use of your local library.
- Talk about books.
- Bring reading to life.

### Book share

Our book share was very successful last year! thank you parents and children for participating. We invite you and encourage parents to invite your child to visit the school office and choose a book to read at home and then return it to school and choose another one.

### Homework

Just a gentle reminder that homework is set and located on Purple Mash weekly, or paper copies are shared with your child. Please ensure that you check DO-JOS to help you track you child's journey and achievements. With Purple Mash, your child has been given a log in with a username and password. If you are having problems or do not have log in, please let us know, so that we can help. As part of weekly homework, it is very **IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARE HEARD TO READ AND CHILDREN ARE READING AT HOME.**

### PE Lessons

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.

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Year group	Day of the week	Activity
Reception -	Tuesday/Wednesday afternoon	Teacher leading
Year 1 -	Monday morning Friday afternoon	Sports coach Teacher leading
Year 2 -	Monday afternoon Tuesday afternoon	Sports coach Teacher leading
Year 3 -	Monday morning Thursday	Swimming Teacher leading
Year 4 -	Monday morning Thursday	Sports Coach Teacher leading
Year 5 -	Monday morning Friday afternoon	Sports coach teacher leading
Year 6 -	Monday Morning Thursday	Sports Coach Teacher leading

A reminder that for the 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 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.

**School Uniform**

Thank you parents for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. The children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. Please can I remind parents to write your child's name on all items of clothing of your child. Please let us know if you are in need of items of uniform as we may be able to help!

**Polite reminder – Hairstyles**

Thank you for continuing to support our policy on appropriate hairstyles for school. Just a reminder that during term time 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. Please continue to support us this term. Thank you.

**Jewellery**

Please take care not to send your children into school with looped earrings, necklaces or expensive pieces of jewellery. It is important to note that jewellery can be broken or lost in school and not suitable for play or PE activities.

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### AIP Catering

Free School Meals and KS1 Universal Free School Meals children - If your child is a Free School Meal child or is in Reception or KS1 they are entitled to a free school lunch which would be a hot meal from the school canteen.

**If you would rather send your child in with their own packed lunch you are welcome to do so BUT... (please remember no nuts (including Nutella), tomatoes, oranges or coconut as we have children with severe allergies in school).**

Please book online on SCHOOL FOOD UNITED TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PREFERRED LUNCH OPTION. If you are having trouble logging in or creating your School Food United account, please come and see Mrs Slater in the School Office.

If your child is in KS2 classes and are not Free school meals/pupil premium then ALL MEALS NEED TO BE PAID FOR at a cost of £2.40 per day.

**Please remember if you pay for school meals to please clear your balance on a daily balance. Any problems come and see the School Office.**

All children should still bring their own filled water bottle each day which needs to be taken home at the end of each day and washed and brought back the following day.

### Healthy Choices

We continue to be proud of our Platinum Healthy School Award. **Please support your children to make healthy choices for break times and at lunchtimes in their lunch boxes.** Please choose the children's snacks with a careful thought. We are seeing a rise in unhealthy snacks across school. Please check your child's lunchboxes and this will give you an indication of how much your child has eaten. Please note that school provides a piece of fruit at breaktime for your child. Thank you for your support.

### Arbor

It is live!!

Recently, you will have seen correspondence from School regarding signing up to Arbor. It is **really important** that you **sign up and download the app** as going forward after February half term this is the only way School will communicate with you as Schoolcomms will no longer be available from the end of March. **All payments and bookings for Clubs, Wraparound, Trips, Nursery Fees will all have to be done via Arbor going forward and cash will not be taken at the School Office.**

Download the app and put in your email address that matches our Arbor system and click forgotten password or type Arbor into google and go through that way.

If you are having problems with this come and see Mrs Slater in the School Office who will be happy to help.

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**Wraparound Care**

After February half term there will be a change in how offering wraparound care will operate in our school.

We will be offering Wraparound Morning from 7:30am - 8:40 am

Afterschool wraparound from 3:00pm- 6:00pm

Letters regarding this change, information and prices have been sent home with your children. You must book and pay via Arbor or your child's place is not secured and you will not be able to bring them in the morning if a slot has not been booked and paid for.

**Contact Details**



We have sent all parents paper forms home to be completed and returned to school last half term. We are still missing some returns! It is important that school has your update contact details. **If you have changed your contact details**, please pop into the office and let the school know. We want to ensure that we can contact you directly in the case of an emergency or if your child falls ill or has an injury at school during the school day. please ensure that the forms do come back to school! Thank you.

**Attendance**

There has been new guidance on school attendance that has been launched at the start of our academic school year.

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Please ensure that you endeavour to get your child to school and in on time for **8:50 am**. The playground opens at **8:40am and the official start to the school day is 8:50 am**. If your child arrives to school after the registers close, they will receive a late mark that is recorded on your child's attendance record. **If your child is ill and is unable to come to school, you must call school on the first day of their absence (and any further days) to inform the school office of the reason for the absence. Any medical appointments that are unavoidably in school hours must show proof of appointment to the school office. The school office number is 0121 558 1643.**

On the third consecutive day of any absence, school will carry out a welfare check via telephone or a home visit.

If your child's attendance drops below 85% then you will be invited to a meeting with school staff such as the Learning Mentor, Attendance Officer or Vice Principal to offer support with improving your child's attendance.

Any further meetings with regards to attendance concerns below 80% will be escalated to the Principal.

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Please also remember that taking holidays in term time will affect your child's schooling and we ask for your co-operation to not take your child away in school time as this will be **UNAUTHORISED** and you could be at risk of a fine from the Local Authority of Sandwell.

**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.

Could I please request that if your child has an injury that has happened at home or outside of school could you please be so kind to let us know. Telling us would avoid myself from contacting you unnecessarily. If you do have a concern or would like to talk to someone in confidence about a safeguarding concern, then I am the Designated Safeguarding leader (DSL) in school. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer is **Mrs Anslow** and Safeguarding Officers are **Miss Reaney, Mrs Davidson and Mr Padaton**. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our local authority of Sandwell and the Multi academy Company of the Emmaus MAC.

**Nursery places — Please see the information below!**

We have nursery places available now! We can offer a nursery place to your child when **YOUR CHILD TURNS 3 YEARS OLD** or will be within the current term, please get in contact and we will be happy to support with completing the application forms and supporting you and your child.



**Keep in touch**

We are here to serve you and it is our pleasure to help. Your child's safety, happiness and academic progress are the reason why every single member of staff is here. If you are concerned about any aspect of school life - no matter how small - it's really important to let us know. The sooner we know about things the sooner we can do our best to sort things out. The teachers and teaching assistants can take quick messages on the door before and after school - if you need a longer, private conversation please call the school and the member of staff that you need to speak with will be in contact with you.

**Change of circumstances**

It's important for us to know that if your personal circumstance have changed you may be entitled to Free School meals. You can help the school to access precious funding for years to come (called Pupil Premium) by registering for free school meals. Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal every day (if you choose to take it) you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come. funding that is all spent on better provision for the children. If you think that you may qualify, please pop into school and speak to Mrs Slater.



**Our School Website**

Please remember to visit our school website which is full of useful and up to date information. Please log on and have a look. You can post a message on the guest book page to let us know your thoughts and take a look at our Twitter page and blog.

The address is : [www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk/)

**Dates for your diary**

**Dates For Diary 2024-2025**

<b>Term Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Children break up for half term
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	<b>TRAINING DAY</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Children return back to School
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Children break up for Easter
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Children return back to School
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Children return to School
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Children break up for half term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	Children return to School
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Children break up for Summer
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025</b>	<b>Training day school closed</b>

Wishing you every good wish & God Bless

Mrs C Hinton  
Principal

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