



ST PHILIP'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2024

Hello!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are nearly at coming to end of our autumn term and 2024. Please take some time to read the school newsletter with key information and dates.

Catholic School Pupil Profile

This half term we will be focusing on as a school on how to be **Intentional** and **Prophetic** **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is **intentional** in its way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which is **prophetic** in the way it offers an alternative vision of education and the human person rooted in the Gospel



The Pope's Prayer Intentions for December

For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

ADVENT

We are in the season of Advent which is a liturgical season consisting of four Sundays leading up to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. It is an Old English word coming from the Latin *adventus* (arrival) or *advenire* (to come). It is a special time dedicated to the remembrance of Jesus' coming as a baby over 2,000 years ago. Christians across the world prepare to celebrate the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of His son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness.

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

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During the season of advent we have been focussing on sharing Hope, Love & Joy through networking with charities and our chosen charity has been Father Hudson's to support those in need...

THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE WARMLY INVITES YOU TO SUPPORT OUR 2024 REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR


Throughout Advent, every child, young person and member of staff in a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham is invited to show their love and support for those in need by contributing at least one item to the diocesan Reverse Advent Calendar.

This year we are collecting toiletries which will be donated to Father Hudson's Caritas to support people living on the streets or those arriving new to the country as asylum seekers or refugees. Father Hudson's Caritas is desperately in need of the following items:

- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Body wash
- ◆ Sanitary products
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Toothbrushes

◆ ...or any other hygiene products you would like to donate

Please add an item or two to your weekly shop during Advent and add it to your school Reverse Advent Calendar.



I wish to send my sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for your support and contributions to our chosen charity. Thank you for making a difference!

Live Simply Challenge



During this season of preparing, lots of Christmas cards are being sent all over the world. With Laudato Si in mind (caring for our common home), we are always thinking in school about ways we can care for the environment and all of God's creation. We ask that you make a pledge this year to send e-cards instead to minimise our effect on God's planet earth. Any of our small actions can have huge impact for the future.

Thank you

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 Thursday	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.

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.

Healthy Snacks

A gentle reminder! Please take note of the snacks your child is bringing into school. Please help and encourage your child to choose a healthy snack - instead of big bags of crisps and sweets. There is a rise in pupils bringing in big bags of crisps and sweets. Thank you for your support.



Breakfast club

We currently run our breakfast club from 7:30am - 8:40am at the price of £1:50 per child, we have kept costs down as long as we possibly can for a long time, but in order to continue to provide a breakfast club and sadly due to constant rising costs of food, fuel, staffing costs and other costs the school is subject to, we will have to increase the cost of the breakfast club fee to £3:00 per child from January 2025.



Afterschool Clubs

We endeavour to support all families with offering the afterschool club chosen for your child. However, in the spring term in 2025, there will be some changes to how our afterschool clubs will be run in our school. There will be a letter shared with you in the new year to gauge your opinion and views about how to improve our afterschool provision.



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.**



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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.

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.

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

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Please note!

You can now apply for a Reception School in September 2025.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2025

Any applications received after this will be treated as a late application. You can apply for a place to start Reception in September 2025 if your child's date of birth falls between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.

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 very 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/

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Dates For Diary 2024-2025

Term Dates	Activity
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	KS2 Carol Concert 2.00 pm in school hall
Thursday 19 th December 2024	Whole School mass for the end of the term 9:15 am in school.
Friday 20 th December 2024	Term ends for Christmas at 3:00pm
Monday 6 th January 2025	Children return back to School
Friday 14 th February 2025	Children break up for half term
Monday 24 th February 2025	Children return back to School
Friday 11 th April 2025	Children break up for Easter
Monday 28 th April 2025	Children return back to School
Monday 5 th May 2025	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	Children return to School
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Children break up for half term
Monday 2 nd June 2025	Children return to School
Sunday 29 th June 2025	Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St Philip Neri Church at 10:00 am mass
Friday 18 th July 2025	Children break up for Summer
Monday 21 st July 2025	Training day school closed

PLEASE NOTE !

SOME DATES AND TIMINGS MAY CHANGE.

MAC training Day Friday 14th February 2025 - TBC



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Wishing you every good wish for a lovely Christmas and new Year in 2025.

God Bless

Mrs C Hinton
Principal

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