

Hello!

Dear parents/carers

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well and had a lovely summer break. This newsletter contains some very important information for this half term, please keep a note and refer too please.

Welcome back

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all our children and families back to school and our new Nursery and Reception children and families who have joined St Philip's Catholic Primary School this year. It has been a pleasure meeting the children in class and seeing how they are all enjoying school. We also welcome Miss Foster who is our new year 4 teacher.

Our Values for this half term

Our values this half term are **Compassionate and Loving.**

Compassionate towards others in all that we do – showing sympathy, empathy, tolerance, understanding, kindness and forgiveness.

Loving towards all that we encounter, with our families and those we know as well as those we don't know. Showing the love of Jesus in all that we do and say.

These values are set by the Archdiocese and all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese focus on the same set of values, which are changed each half term. The values are drawn from the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile, which is on display throughout the school and in the main areas in school.



A God Who Speak Scripture for this half term



Each half term we focus on a piece of scripture and reflect on how we God is present in our lives. This piece of scripture reminds us of our every present God, A God who was there in the very beginning to create and shape the beautiful world we live in.

“In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. John 1:1.

Rest in Peace your Majesty



We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Like many people all over Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries.

During our time in school through the national period of mourning, we have learned lots about the Queen, her life, her service, her family, and the important role she was called to undertake – to serve God and serve her people.

Eternal rest, grant onto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace. Amen.



New school Year Classes

- Year 6 – Miss Reaney
- Year 5 – Mrs Anslow
- Year 4 - Miss Foster
- Year 3 – Mrs Davidson- Pope
- Year 2 – Mrs Hill
- Year 1 – Mrs Evans
- Reception – Mrs Eaton
- Nursery – Mrs Chapman and Mrs McKenzie

Please look at for communications inviting you to merit assemblies and school masses and other events that will happening in school over the coming term. We are so happy to be able to invite parents back into school to support and be part of celebrating school life with us again.

School Day Timings

School day timings – start of the day **8:50 am** . end of the school day **3:00pm**
the school gates on the back playground for years 1-6 will be opened at 8:40 am - 8:55 am and will open at the end of the school day from 2:50 -3:10 pm.
EYFS – Gates open 8:40 am – 8:55am and will open at 2:55pm.



School uniform, jewellery, nail varnish and hair styles

Thank you parents for your support with your child’s school uniform at the start of term. 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 at a time when shopping is still difficult. **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.**

Please remember that we don’t allow trainers – only black shoes. Nail varnish, jewellery of any kind (including earrings) and hairstyles must be smart with long hair tied back for safety. We don’t allow any hair engravings or extreme shavings and children’s hair must not be dyed or highlighted.

PE Kits and P.E Kits

Year group	Day of the week
Reception –	Monday morning
Year 1 –	Friday afternoon
Year 2 –	Monday morning
Year 3 -	Monday morning
Year 4 –	Thursday afternoon
Year 5 –	Monday afternoon
Year 6 –	Monday morning - Swimming

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 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.

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 very much !**

Children's Belongings

We ask that during the autumn term children only bring the following items to school:

- One School Bag containing:
- Lunch Box (if not having a school lunch)
- 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



We are in a new school year and over the coming week we will be sending you home some forms to be completed to include your contact details , child's allergies , permission for photographs etc. **PLEASE ENSURE THESE FORMS ARE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL**

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.

Medical information IMPORTANT !

Please ensure that we know as much information about your child's medical needs/ allergies or medical conditions. If your child requires medicine to be administered at school you must come to the school office with the medicine to complete a medical form for school to administer safely.

Please be assured that the staff who will be administering your child's medication are trained in administering medication to young people. If you would like to talk to us about your child's medical condition or you have any concerns , please come and speak to us .

Breakfast Club



We have places still available for breakfast club. If you would like to send your child to breakfast club, you can pay cash daily or for the week at the school office before the session starts. If you have access to SCHOOLCOMMS, 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 like more information, please call the school office and they will be happy to help.



Afterschool clubs

The afterschool club letters have been sent out and this year we wanted to offer a wider range of clubs for the children to experience. The clubs will be led by mostly our school staff across the week. To pay for the clubs, you can pay cash at the school office or pay on SCHOOL COMMS APP. Please contact school if you are experiencing difficulties.

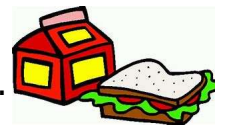


Dolce lunches

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 £2:30 or provide a packed lunch.

Healthy Playtime Snacks and healthy lunchboxes

Please can we ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. Your child is offered fruit at school daily during playtimes, or if you wish please provide a small snack, which may consist of a very small chocolate bar or small bag of low-fat content crisps is also acceptable.



Please note! Big bags of crisps, high sugar snacks or big chocolate bars are not healthy snacks and are not suitable for playtimes. We don't want to 'ban' any foods in moderation but we do need to ask you to keep a close eye on playtime snacks and help us to make sure all snacks are as healthy as possible.

Similarly, at lunchtimes, please can we ask you to ensure lunchboxes contain a range of healthy choices and not all snacks!– but please try to keep high fat or high sugar foods to healthy levels.

We want the children to be able to enjoy a balanced diet and we feel that 'banning' any foods is at odds with making healthy choices. We would much rather help the children understand how to enjoy 'everything in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation.

Thank you for supporting us as we are very proud of our platinum healthy school award! .

Please do not bring in hot food for children at lunchtime

A number of very well-meaning parents have been bringing in hot food for their children to eat at lunchtime. This is no longer allowed. We understand that parents mean no harm, but bringing in hot food means that the office has to find the children and deliver the food, which takes them away from the office and other children can get upset if their parents haven't brought food in for them too. Please

do not bring in hot food for children at lunchtime – we appreciate your understanding

Just a note !

Please can I remind you that the children who have moved into Key Stage 2 classes from year 3- year 6 must pay for your child's hot lunch. If you ARE NOT entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS must be paid for. Your child's meal was entitled to Universal Free school meals in reception, year 1 and year 2 classes, but this ends when your child leaves year 2. When your child moves into year 3 and you want them to have a hot lunch and they are not free school meals, must be paid for.

Free School Meals This is very important !

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. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following: Please see the criteria below:

You may be entitled to Free school Meals if you;

- **Income Support**
- **income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **the guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**
- **Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)**

Please read carefully !

What is Pupil Premium?

Once a year we provide the department for education with information that we hold about our pupils in a census return. Allocations are made based on the school which the eligible pupil attends at the time of the January school census. This information is used to determine the amount of additional funding we receive for specific pupils, and we then ensure the money is spent on those same pupils over the course of the school year. The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that we can

support our disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

Where Can I find More Information On Pupil Premium Funding?

For more information on Pupil Premium visit the Department for Education's website.

How Do I Know If My Child Can Receive Pupil Premium Funding?

Free School Meals

The most common reason a pupil receives Pupil Premium funding at our school is because a parent is registered as receiving a benefit that entitles them to free school meals. This is not the same as receiving a free school meal as your child is in KS1. Free school meal / pupil premium funding now works as: All pupils in KS1 (Class 1 pupils) will receive a free school meal under the UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) Scheme. However, if you receive certain benefits your child can still receive pupil premium funding, **but you MUST fill in all the details on the free school meal form available upon request from the office.**

KS2 (Yr3, Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6) All pupils will need to apply for free school meals and pupil premium in the same way as before.

Service Children

Children of armed service personnel are also eligible. Service children are children and young people from families where one or more parents is currently in the British armed forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

§ one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces

§ one of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years

§ one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK IF YOUR CHILD IS ENTITLED TO PUPIL PREMIUM. The money that school receives can help enormously in supporting your child/ren further.

Thank you !

Thank you so much parents for your patience at the start of the school year. We have had a new IT system over the summer and there has been a few issues to iron out at the start of the term. We are aiming to make things easier in the long term to be able communicate with school and home. We promise that we are endeavouring to sort these problems out and to resolve them. But please contact us if you are experiencing problems.

Nursery places— Please see the information below!

We have nursery places available for September 2022. 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. Or 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



WOW (walk once a week) Project

The **WOW** project will be starting and the children have been very proud to tell us about their walking to school achievements. The project encourages as much of us to walk to work or park your car at a distance from school and '**park and stride to school**'. In this **exciting project** competition we are working with the MAC schools and other schools in Sandwell and we wish to finish as high up in the table as we can. It will be a wonderful achievement for our children. So, keep up great work of choosing to walk to school or Park and stride to school.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance at school is mandatory by law. Any one of us can be running late from time to time for good reasons, but children must ordinarily arrive at school at the correct start time and as per school registration rules, they will be marked late if they arrive after the start time.

We reserve the right to monitor persistent lateness and this will be recorded as unauthorised absence, which can ultimately lead to intervention from the Education Investigation Service, and possible penalties. Please support regular attendance and regular good timekeeping. Thank you for your support

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.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Hinton

Mrs C Hinton
Principal

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	Teacher 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

PLEASE NOTE THAT TEACHER TRAINING DAYS MAY VARY !