



December 2020

We are coming to the end of a very busy term, with lots of events and achievements for the children to celebrate and be very proud of. Well done children! Even though this year has been a very different year for us all, I would like to thank you parents, for your continuing support this year, your support and contributions are very valued and appreciated. It has been a difficult and a very challenging year for all of us. I wanted to say a huge thank you for adhering to the social distancing and your support with all the new systems and organisation in school. I am so incredibly proud of all the children who came back to school in September and adapted to a new way of working in classes.

School lunches

Parents, a polite reminder to ask you to ensure that you **pre-book** your child's lunch choice before the new day/week starts with your child/ren and talk to them about what they will be having for lunch. The children are enjoying the new system, menu and food choices on offer at lunchtimes, but if the children don't know what they are eating for lunch they get upset because they don't want the choice that has been chosen for them and want another choice seen. It is important to remember that the food is prepared on our school site based on the orders that we receive from School Grid. **You can also add onto this system and update on your child's allergies or dietary requirements which help us immensely with knowing your child's allergies and needs for lunchtime, this is very important.**

School Grid website address : <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login>

Pupil Premium funding

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium - you can easily help the school get more funding to spend on the children. If you receive certain benefits you could help the school to obtain precious extra funding called 'Pupil Premium.' As you know, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal every day - **however, if you receive benefits it's still important to apply for free school meals even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 - that is the only way the school will receive pupil premium funding.** It is the same case if your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and they prefer to bring their own lunch - **if you apply for free school meals you need never actually take a free meal - we will still receive pupil premium funding for up to 6 years.** This funding is very precious to us and is spent 100% on the children - helping them in a number of ways and opportunities and experiences to achieve the highest standards possible and make the best progress they can.

How to apply : You can get a form from the school office and Mrs Slater will send this to the authority or apply online : www.Sandwell.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to check your eligibility. We are very grateful for your help.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club starts at 7:30am—8:30am Monday-Friday for the cost of £1:50 per day. Please book on Schoolcomms to book a place for the day or week. We have places available.

Nursery places

Nursery Spaces available .We still have some afternoon spaces available in our Nursery provision on site. Please contact the school office for more details or to register an interest.

Coronavirus Guidance

Thank you for your ongoing support in wearing masks on the school grounds when dropping off and collecting children from school. Please ensure that you contact the school to let us know of any concerns with symptoms in your house.

A reminder as well that your child should not be attending school if they are suffering from any of the main Coronavirus symptoms.

Get a test if your child or any other family member has any of these symptoms:

- A new high temperature, where they feel hot to touch on their chest or back.
- A new continuous cough, coughing a lot more for more than an hour or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- Loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January	Mac Teacher Training Day — School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Term — School opens
Monday 15th—19th February	Half Term
Thursday 1st April	End of Term — School closes for Easter

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April	Start of Term — School opens
Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	Teacher Training Day — School closed to Pupils
Monday 31st—4 June	Half Term
Tuesday 20th July	End of Term—School closes for Summer
Wednesday 21st July	Teacher Training Day — School closed to pupils



CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Christmas is the time we think of the birth of baby Jesus born in a manger, with Mary and Joseph beside him. The first witnesses of Christ's birth were the shepherds who were considered poor and lowly but were chosen. The angels announced in glory the birth of the saviour for the first time to the shepherds. God chose the shepherds and not the kings and powerful or rich people.

Christmas is not just a day to remember and commemorate, it is not just a season to celebrate....

Christmas is love. It is the time when the love of God is revealed to us and received by all people of goodwill, not only to the shepherds and the "magi" to whom the Lord has chosen to reveal, but also to us today.

Celebrating Christmas is celebrating God's love for us all. Christmas is the highlight of a joyful and hopeful time of waiting for the saviour to come.

*O God,
bless our family this Christmastime
bind us together by your love.
Give us kindness and patience
to support each other;
and wisdom in all we do.
Let the gift of your peace
come into our hearts
and remain with us.
Amen.*



On behalf of all the staff and governors of St Philip's Catholic Primary School, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

