



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we come to the end of our spring term. Please read and refer to for key dates and information over the spring term.

### **Thank you**

Thank you for your support this lenten season with your support with contributing to the charities of CAFOD and The Good Shepherd Appeal. During the season of Lent, the children have been preparing themselves their journey in lent of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, by creating prayers for the world around us, thinking about how they fast from their favourite sweets or giving to the less fortunate. Thank you!



### **Pope Francis monthly message for March - We pray for New Martyrs**

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

During this week the children have been focusing on our Holy Week unit in RE. We are very proud of our children who have shared the story of Holy Week.

### **Goodbye and farewell**

We say goodbye to Mrs Letowska who will be leaving our school this week. We thank her for her dedication to the children of St Philip's and wish her all the very best in her new role and for the future. Thank you Mrs Letowska.

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Messenger Road,  
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Tel: 0121 558 1643  
[www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk)  
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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### Early Help Officer

In January we invited all parents to a launch meeting to introduce you to PC Asma Begum. PC Asma is continuing to work with St Philip's supporting our families and children with topics of community issues, parent conflicts or safeguarding concerns with parents, if you wish to contact her and discuss any matters that you are concerned with, her details are:

#### **PC Asma Begum**

Early Help Police Constable  
West Bromwich & Smethwick  
Sandwell Partnerships  
West Midlands Police

**M:** 07391019162 **T:** 101 811 3045

**W:** [west-midlands.police.uk](http://west-midlands.police.uk)

### 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 **Miss Reaney** and Safeguarding Officers are **Mrs Hill, 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.

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### Reading at Home

Reading is a very important tool and life skill. We would like to share how important it is to read with your child at home. I know and understand that home life can be very busy, but we do encourage daily reading with your child to help improve their confidence with fluency and comprehension.

Please comment in your child's reading record and we hope the tips below help!

**Here are some more tips to help you enjoy storytime together:**

- Ask your child to choose what they would like to read. They will feel more interested in the story if they have picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio, computer, I-Pad. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures in the story book. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there is something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.



- **Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story - as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!**

**Uniform, PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles**

Thank you Parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school so smart. Please can I share, there should be no hair sculptures or tram lines, shaving, highlights or hair colouring of any description.

A polite reminder that Extreme hairstyles should only be considered at the beginning of the summer holiday only. Thank you so much.

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.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Day of the week</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Reception -</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> afternoon	Teacher leading
<b>Year 1 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> morning	Sports coach
<b>Year 2 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> afternoon	Sports coach
<b>Year 3 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> morning	Sports coach
<b>Year 4 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> morning	Sports coach
<b>Year 5 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> morning	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Year 6 -</b>	<b>Monday</b> afternoon	Sports coach

A reminder that for the summer 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.



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### 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.

### 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 as 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.

### AIP Catering

Free School Meals and KS1 Universal Free School Meals children - If your child is a Free School Meal child or is in EYFS 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 (please remember **no nuts (including Nutella), tomatoes or oranges** as we have children with severe allergies in school). Please book lunches 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.

Please remember if you pay for school meals to please clear your balance on a daily basis. **Please be aware that if your child is year 3,4,5 or 6 you are required to pay for your child's lunches.** Any problems come and see the School Office.

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



**Contact Details**

It is very important that school has the most up to date contact details of your telephone numbers. **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.

**Attendance**

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 gates open 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, please contact the **school office on 0121 558 1643** and leave a message or speak to Mrs Slater.

**Please 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 .**

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

We have nursery places available for April and September 2024. If you have child who 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. Our next

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intake will be April 2024. Please pop into the school and speak with us at the school office .

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

The banner includes the school logo and three small circular images showing children in a nursery setting.

### 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.

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**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 X page and blog.

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

**Dates for your diary**

Term Dates	Activity
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school.
W/B 8 <sup>TH</sup> April	Parent consultation for Nursery, please see a separate letter for information and final dates.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents evening for years Reception, year 1,2,3,4, Parent consultations during the school day for year 6
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 parents evening.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Children break up for half term.
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	School opens to Children. Children return to school.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Children break up for Summer
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Training Day

**Term dates for 2024 /2025**

**Autumn term 2024**

- Term starts: Monday 2 September 2024
- Half-term holiday: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
- Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024
- Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

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### Spring term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 6 January 2025
- Half-term holiday: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025
- Easter Holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

### Summer term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 28 April 2025 (Bank Holiday Monday 5 May)
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- Term ends: Monday 21 July 2025
- Summer holiday starts: Tuesday 22 July 2025

### Proposed MAC INSET dates for 24/25:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Friday 4th October 2024

Monday 21st July 2025 (disaggregated over 3 twilights)

Plus one MAC training Day perhaps Friday 14th February 2025.

*Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Easter*



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