



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2024

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and hope you all had a lovely half term break.

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 November**

*For anyone who has lost a child we pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.*

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

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

Thank you so much for your return letters to school for your child's enrolment for the Sacrament of Communion and Confirmation in 2025. Please join us on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 9:30 am in the church of St Philip Neri. We will be getting in touch to invite you for a

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





parent meeting in early next year to share with you how your child is being prepared for the beautiful sacraments and the arrangements and preparations for receiving the sacraments.

### **Confirmation**

We are awaiting a final date from St Chad's Cathedral House for Confirmation. We are hoping that the date will be in the summer term in 2025. We will inform you as soon as we have finalised the date with the Archbishops House at St Chads.

### **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 use the link below to access and download the free app for parents. Teachers will also be sharing information with you about Boom Reader.

[Parents | BoomReader](#)



**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.

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	Sports coach Teacher leading
Year 4 -	Monday morning Thursday	Swimming Teacher leading
Year 5 -	Monday morning Thursday	Sports coach teacher leading
Year 6 -	Monday Morning Thursday	Sports Coach Teacher leading



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A reminder that for 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 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.

**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.

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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



**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.

**Healthy Snacks**

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. Thank you for your support.



**Afterschool Clubs**

We endeavour to support all families with offering the afterschool club chosen for your child. However, we cannot always guarantee this be the case as clubs are very popular and oversubscribed. We hope that all children are granted one club of their choice that they can participate in, and all children are able to engage in.

We do ask that if your child has been granted a club, they must **ATTEND ALL SESSIONS**. If they do not attend 2 consecutive sessions their place will be allocated to another child, and we will notify you, if this is the case.

If your child attends a club and does not demonstrate good choices, behaviour or is disruptive or disrespectful in the club, sadly this is a conversation with parents that could result in your child losing their place. Thank you for your support with this matter.



**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



**ST PHILIP'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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.

**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.

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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



**ST PHILIP'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

**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

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154





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 - finding 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>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Children return back to School
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Red Wednesday - National day of prayer - children invited to wear RED
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Individual School Photos - CHILDREN IN FULL UNIFORM PLEASE
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Training Day School Closed to Children
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR ALL CHILDREN

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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





Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	KS1 Christmas production
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	EYFS Christmas production
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	KS2 Carol Concert 2.00 pm in school hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Whole School mass for the end of the term 9:15 am in school.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Term ends for Christmas
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Children return back to School
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Children break up for half term
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
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Training day school closed

**PLEASE NOTE !**

**SOME DATES AND TIMINGS MAY CHANGE.**

**MAC training Day Friday 14th February 2025 - TBC**

Wishing you every good wish & God Bless

Mrs C Hinton  
Principal

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

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

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

Private Limited Company of Charitable Status within the Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Registered in England and Wales Company No 09174154