



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and you and your families had a nice restful half term. Please read this newsletter and take note of any key dates and information.

### **Catholic school pupil profile**

This half term we will be focusing on as a school on how to be **Attentive** and **Discerning**. **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **Discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

### **The Pope's Prayer Intentions for November**

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### **Month of November**

The Catholic Church designates November as a special month, to pray for and remember those who have died. The month begins with the feast of All Saints (Nov 1), and the feast of the Holy Souls (Nov 2).



Throughout November, we dedicate to pray for those who have died, and nurtures faith and hope of new life with God in heaven. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November is Remembrance Sunday. Tomorrow we will take time for a 2 minute silence where we will remember all the fallen in war and conflict in our world.

### **Prayers in November**

As a school, we are praying for those who have sacrificed and given their lives during war. We spend time in prayer in Remembrance of them. May the Lord grant eternal rest onto them and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

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Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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### **Prayer Bags**

Your child may come home with the class prayer bag. Please take this opportunity to pray together as a family. There are reflections you can complete in the prayer journal together. It would also be lovely to share any photos to your teacher on class dojo. We hope you appreciate this time to spend together in prayer.

During November, we ask that in the light of 'living simply', we ask if you can have an "unplugged" day/hour/evening where devices are all off and you can take a walk or read a book together. Please let us know how you get on.



### **Thank you Parents**

Thank you for your support with offering a food donation for our Harvest focus and raising money for the poppy fund. Thank you. We will keep you updated of other fund raising during Advent. C

### **Sacraments**

#### **First Holy Communion - June 2024**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November the children in year 3 and 4 whose parents have completed the commitment letters for your children to make the sacrament of First Holy Communion next year will be invited to make a commitment at the enrolment mass where parents and children will promise to support the spiritual journey of your child. Mass is at 9:30 am at St Philip Neri church. Please join us. If you have any further questions, please come forward and speak to myself or Mrs Anslow at school or you can contact Father Damian at the Presbytery on **0121 558 1067**.

#### **Father Damian**

Father Damian and I would like to share with you that he will be leaving the Parish of St Philip Neri this month. Father Damian has served our parish of St Philip Neri and our school for just over 5 years as Parish Priest. Father Damian will be moving to London during the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Father Damian's last school mass will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and his last Parish Mass will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. We would like it very much if you able to join us at Father's last School Mass so that we can say a fond farewell to him. Father Damian serves in the religious order of The Spiritan Fathers and our new parish priest will be arriving in the week

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beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November. We thank Father Damian with sincere gratitude for his dedication, support and commitment to our school and parish community.



### Reading at home

Reading is a key life skill and through our Read Write Inc reading scheme we support children with 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. We really would like to encourage parents to comment in the reading diary when your child is heard read at home.

Please look out for top tips for parents of ways to support your child create a love for reading!



### School homework projects

A huge thank you parents and children for all your hard work and creativity completing the class home projects. It has been a pleasure to see the wonderful projects the children have completed at home. Thank you so very much parents for helping to learn become real and alive at home. Well done children!

### Homework

Just a gentle reminder that homework is set and located on Purple Mash weekly. 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.**

### 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.

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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 **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.

**School Uniform**

Thank you parents for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. A gentle reminder please to ensure that your child has black trainers/shoes. For PE on Monday's, it is black/blues joggers, a white T-shirt and their school jumper.

**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.

**PE timetable**

Children in year 3 are swimming this half term, Swimming is a part of our Physical Education national curriculum and it is important that all children take part on Monday's.

Reception, Year 1,4,5 and 6 are on Monday led by Coach Ben and Year 2 is on Wednesday's.

**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

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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.

### 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 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. 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.

Please remember if you pay for school to please clear your balance on a daily balance. Any problems come and see the School Office.



### 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.



### 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.

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### **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 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 80% 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 .**

### **Arrangements for dropping and collecting your child.**

Thank you Parents for your support and co-operation with the new arrangements for dropping and collecting your child in Year 1 and 2. I hope that this new arrangement is working for you as it is for us . We want to ensure that there is a smooth system in place as safety comes first for parents/carers and our children.

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

We have nursery places available for January 2023. 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.



### **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 - 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.

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**Dates for your diary**

Autumn 2 Dates	Activity
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week - Children will focussing on a range of activities .
W/B 20 <sup>th</sup> November	B-Tails Theatre group in school working with KS2 children.
20 <sup>th</sup> November	National road safety week Photographer in school - individual photo's.
21 <sup>st</sup> November	United Legacy commonwealth games workshops for year 3,4 and 5 classes.
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Brilliant in Britain focus : Responsibility
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Start of the Season of Advent
W/B 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reconciliation service in church for year 4, 5 and 6 classes Ks2 carol concert / EYFS / KS1 Christmas plays. B-TAILS Christmas theatre in school for whole school.
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch Christmas jumper day
W/B 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Children Break up for Christmas break at 3:00pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School opens to children. Children return to school

Wishing you every good wish.

Mrs C Hinton  
Principal