



We are nearly at the end of the first half of our spring term, time is flying by so fast.

Parking and safety

Messenger Road is very busy now with the new residential houses and I am aware that parking is an issue, however, school has had concerns raised by residents of the houses in Messenger Road.

Please ensure that you do not park on residents drives, over the drives or obstructing any access when you are dropping your children off in the morning or picking them up at the end of the day.

Please also ensure that your children are safely arriving at school, as we have had concerned staff seeing children being dropped off at a distance from school and the children are not aware of moving vehicles. Please take care.

Activities at Aston Villa FC

Check out the upcoming half term soccer schools and soccer clinics that are available at several venues across the West Midlands. For more information please log on to



<http://www.avfc.co.uk/page/SoccerSchools/0,,10265,00.html>

Jewellery

Please remember that only small stud earrings are allowed in school and no other jewellery, nail varnish or make-up is permitted. Earrings should not be worn on PE days. New piercings should only be done at the beginning of the summer holiday so that they are healed sufficiently to be able to be taken out for PE days.



P.E Kits

Physical Education is an important lesson in school. We have noticed children not bringing in their PE kits to take part. Please ensure that your children have their PE kits at the start of the school week to participate in the lessons. Sadly the children who do not have their kits are not able to participate in the lessons. It is only children who have a recognised medical condition who are under consultation from the hospital that miss PE. If this is the case, then can please let your child's teacher know.



Healthy choices

A polite reminder to support your child into making healthy food choices at break time and in their lunchboxes. We are very proud of our platinum healthy schools award and making healthy choices is one thing that we were celebrated for. Thank you for your continuing support.



Remember, one apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Famous Olympic Athlete visits St Philip's

On Monday 1st February, the children were involved in an exciting day focusing on healthy lifestyles. Throughout the day the children were involved in activities with our sports coaches. The children also had the opportunity to taste beautiful fruits that were provided by ASDA. In the afternoon we welcomed James Denny, a world diving champion who is preparing for the Olympics in Rio 2016. The children were wowed by this experience of meeting a famous athlete, learning about the skills of how to be an athlete and learning about some of the skills to be a diver. A very successful day was had by all!



* **Birthday Cakes in KS2:** We do like to celebrate your child's birthday
* in school, however, sometimes an extra adult is not always available to
* cut the cakes ready to give out on the day. We therefore ask you, if
* you would like to send cakes etc for the children in your child's class, that you send
* only individual cakes, already cut cakes in bags or sweets. There would be no prob-
* lem handing them to your child's friends as they leave the class at the end of the
* day. This would avoid disappointment for your child. Thank you for your support.



Retreat Day

School welcomed 'One Life', Liturgy music team with Dan Callow on Wednesday for a retreat day focussed on the Year of Mercy. It was a wonderful day and both children and staff enjoyed the day which was full of music, song, activities and reflection as we start our season of Lent.



Homework Club

Look out for the flyer which will shortly be sent to you detailing homework clubs being run by Smethwick Library.



School Parish Masses

You are most welcome to join us at our school parish masses once a month on a Sunday at 10:00 am in St Philip's Catholic Church. School parish mass next half- this term is:



Sunday 6th March—Mothering Sunday

School Website

Please visit our school website where it gives you up to date information and a glimpse of what we do in school. There is a facility to leave a comment about our lovely school and the website in our guestbook section. The address is



www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk



Importance of correct contact details:

St Philip's Catholic Primary School strive to ensure safeguarding and the welfare of our pupils is at the forefront of all we do. Please can all families ensure we have up to date contact details for them as we may need to contact families in an emergency. To update your contact details please contact the school office on 0121 558 1643 or pop in and see us.

School day - collection of children:

Please be reminded that the school day runs from 8:50am to 3:00pm and in Nursery 8:45am—11:45pm and 12:15pm— 3:15pm and all children need to be collected on time. If you cannot collect your child on time yourself and you have made arrangements for a family member or friend to collect him/her from school for you please ensure that these are firm arrangements and that your child is not left for lengthy times unsure of who is collecting him/her. You must inform the office of any alternative arrangements and leave a contact number of the person who is collecting your child.



Vocations week

This week is vocations week and during the week the children will be learning what the meaning of vocations is through assembly, visitors in school to talk to the children and activities in class. We started our week of vocations with mass and on Ash Wednesday the school had a retreat day with One Life visiting our school and looking at vocation and the year of mercy.



Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are yet again collecting vouchers for free PE equipment for the children. Please ask friends and relatives to collect vouchers and send them into school with your child. Every little bit helps.



SPORT

Well done to all the children who participated in sports this half term. The children have been involved in a swimming gala with great results and the children really enjoyed this activity. Well Done children !



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2015/16

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|-------------------------|---|
| Spring Term 2016 | |
| Friday 12 February | Break up for Half Term |
| Monday 22 February | Pupils return to school |
| Thursday 24 March | Break up for Easter |
| Summer Term 2015 | |
| Monday 11 April | Pupils return to school |
| Friday 29th April | Teacher Training Day |
| Monday 2 May | May Day Holiday |
| Friday 27 May | Break up for Half Term |
| Monday 6 June | Pupils return to school |
| Thursday 21 July | Last day of Term Break up for summer |

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016/17

Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday 6th September 2016: School reopens to children (5th is a training day)

Thursday 20th October 2016: Children break up for Half Term (21st is a training day)

Monday 31st October 2016: School reopens to children

Friday 16th December 2016: School closes for Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 4th January 2017: School reopens to children (3rd is a training day)

Friday 17th February 2017: School closes for Half Term

Monday 27th February 2017: School reopens to children

Friday 7th April 2017: School closes for Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April 2017: School reopens to children

Monday 1st May 2017: School is closed for May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 26th May 2017: School closes for Half Term

Monday 5th June 2017: School reopens to children

Friday 21st July 2017: Children break up for Summer Holidays (24th and 25th are training days)

Mon 24th and Tue 25th July are lieu days – staff will complete additional professional development meetings / courses and other school improvement work / duties after school in own time to make up equivalent hours for 24th and 25th July in return for breaking up on Friday 21st – normal Sandwell practice to have to work some training day hours in own time as directed and normal practice at St Philip's when convenient)

195 Staff Days 190 Pupil Days

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Landowner: 'You are not allowed to fish here.'

Alec: 'I'm not fishing, I'm just giving my pet worm a bath!'



Half-Term Break

School breaks this Friday, 12th February for half-term and resumes on Monday, 22nd February.

Have a good break.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please keep it in a safe place for future reference.

Mrs Hinton