



Hello!

Dear parents / carers,

We enter into the last week of our school year. I wish to say thank you as always for all of your cooperation with the school during what is still a very challenging time with restrictions. We really appreciate your cooperation and we never forget how difficult it is to juggle school, work and family life - and that's why we appreciate your support and kindness so much.

This newsletter gives you lots of important information about what's happening in school and also keeps you up to date on the important safety procedures we all need to continue following, at least for the time being.

### 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. The Designated Safeguarding leader in school is Mrs Hinton, deputy designated Safeguarding officer is Mr Wilkes and safeguarding officers are Mrs Evans, Mrs Hill and Mr Padaton. Please come forward to talk to us if you are concerned or worried. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website to help and support you with how safeguarding works in our MAC and the local authority of Sandwell.

### Contact Details



It is very important that school has the most up to date contact details of you telephone numbers. **If you have changed your contact details**, please call or 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 during the school day.

### Covid-19 Safety



#### **Important - our school adheres to government rules and local public health guidance**

Please support us to keep everyone safe in the remaining days before we break up for the summer and re-read the information below to help us all return to school safely after our half term break.

**Lateral Flow Tests** are for people who DO NOT have symptoms - they are NOT for

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symptomatic people. The purpose of Lateral Flow tests is to detect positive cases in people who don't have any symptoms or who don't yet have any symptoms. They should not be used to diagnose symptomatic cases.

**Anybody who has symptoms of new and continuous cough, high temperature or fever or loss of taste or smell MUST immediately self-isolate along with their entire household, book a test and continue household isolation until the test result is received.**

**Please remember!**

If you or your child has symptoms of Coronavirus you should not use a Lateral Flow Test - you must self-isolate as an entire household, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**. Please book a full PCR test at a test centre and stay at home until the test result is known. If the PCR (full) test is negative - everyone can stop isolating. If it is positive - everyone in the household must continue isolating and await advice from NHS Test and Trace about the period of isolation required.

**If your child develops symptoms at home**

If your child shows any signs of the classic Covid symptoms of cough, temperature or fever or loss of taste or smell, please **DON'T SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. You must **SELF ISOLATE THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD, BOOK A TEST and STAY AT HOME UNTIL YOU GET THE TEST RESULT**.

A Lateral Flow test is not sufficient for a symptomatic person and cannot be used as acceptable evidence of being virus free. For anyone who has symptoms - only a full PCR test can be used.

**If your child develops symptoms at school**

We will safely isolate them and someone will be with them to look after them and reassure them. We will call you and advise you that your household needs to self-isolate, you need to book a test for your child and you need to stay at home until you get the result.

Once again, the result of a Lateral Flow Test is not acceptable when a person is symptomatic - the only acceptable evidence of being virus-free when someone has symptoms is a PCR full Covid-19 test.

**These are government and public health rules - not ones that we have made up!**

We understand it's disruptive, frustrating and often very inconvenient to have to pick your child up, self-isolate as a household and book a test to then have to wait for the result.

We've all been there at least once this year and we understand! At the same time, the virus is still present in the community and we know variants of COVID 19 can spread rapidly.

Please continue to support us and cooperate with us to the end of term, during these challenging times - we understand your frustration sometimes but we ask you to also understand how the school **MUST** follow all the rules and continue to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus amongst the children.



**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 and think about these choices for child as we come into the new term in September . 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. Thank you for your support.



**School Uniform**

I have made flexibilities for **THIS TERM ONLY** because of difficulties obtaining correct school uniform during the lockdown especially with footwear. But it is very important for you to know and understand that as we enter into a new academic year in September 2021 children need to wear the normal, full St Philip's school uniform from September and our uniform suppliers are aware of this.

The flexibilities have only applied for this term, summer 2021. A new law is being passed that requires schools to make sure school uniform is affordable and government guidance will be published in the autumn. Once this guidance is published we may have to review our policies for September 2022/23. You can read more about his here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-to-make-school-uniform-costs-affordable-for-all?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=f0e82dc6-d590-4601-a763-72e348689e4d&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-to-make-school-uniform-costs-affordable-for-all?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=f0e82dc6-d590-4601-a763-72e348689e4d&utm_content=daily). If changes are required by law for 2022-23 we will ensure a proper consultation is undertaken before any amendments are made in order to comply with the law.

**Polite reminder – Hairstyles and jewellery**



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 to ensure they grow out before the return to school in September. Please also remember that stud earrings are only acceptable to wear at school. Please do not send your child into school with hooped or dangly earrings or necklaces/bracelets. We will share the PE days allocated to your class in September to ensure that Thank you for your continued support.



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



**First Holy Communion**

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July Year 3 and 4 children made their First Holy Communion. On both occasions the children made us very proud of their commitment to making their sacrament of The Eucharist. Sadly the children from year 3 and 4 were not able to be together, but the day was beautiful. I wish to share my thanks with parents for your understanding, dedication and support during the time of your child's sacramental preparation. Thank you. I would like to also thank Miss Anslow for her dedication in preparing the children for their sacraments.

**Confirmation**



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July year 5 and 6 children made the Sacrament of Confirmation in Our church with Bishop David Evans. The evening was beautiful and we were very proud Of all the children who were reverent and engaged beautifully in the mass. Bishop David was very impressed with all the children and wished me to say a big thank you to the children nd families of our school.

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

We have nursery places available for September 2021. 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. Or if you wish to find out about 15 hours provision please contact us.

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

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**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.

**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. Also on the website , please see a list of end of year activities.

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

Important dates	
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports day for year 3 and 4
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	School photographer in school for years 1, 2 and 5 and 6 children.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	School reports to go home
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Going forth mass for sacrament children
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Going forth mass for year 6
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Meet the new teacher
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 end of year educational visit to Edmond hall.

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Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Year 6 class graduation and end of year performance
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Children break up for the summer.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Teacher Training Day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	Teacher Training Days
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Children return to school for a new academic year

A further letter will be coming out via email to share with you staffing arrangements for September

*Mrs C Hinton*

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