



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



April 2025

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we come to end of our spring term .

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 **Compassionate** towards others near and far and **loving** by our just actions and forgiving words.

This links in with our Catholic Social Teaching focus of Dignity of the human person. We are focusing on how we can help our neighbours near and far to ensure that all are treated equally.

### **What does this mean?**

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is in its way of being compassionate and loving in the way pupils are treated, especially when a pupil is in trouble; and by opening pupils' eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence.



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

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### **Jubilee year of Hope**

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

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Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

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

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

Thank you so much for returning letters to school for your child's enrolment for the Sacrament of Communion and Confirmation in 2025. Please note that after the Easter break there will be a meeting for parents in preparation for first Holy Communion.

#### **Confirmation**

To update you, we have had confirmation from the Archbishops House, St Chad's Cathedral House. We wish to inform you that Confirmation will be on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.00 pm** in St Philip Neri Church.

#### **Goodbye**

We say a sad and fond farewell to Ms Clarke in Year 3 who will be leaving us this week. We wish to thank her for all her support and dedication to our children at St Philip's and we wish her all the very best for her future.

### **Curriculum information**



#### **Reading at home**

We continue to advocate that 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. **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.

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- 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 your 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.

### After half term year 5 will be swimming

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 afternoon	Sports coach Teacher leading
Year 4 -	Monday morning Thursday morning	Teacher leading



<b>Year 5 -</b>	<b>Monday morning</b> <b>Friday afternoon</b>	<b>Swimming</b> <b>teacher leading</b>
<b>Year 6 -</b>	<b>Monday Morning</b> <b>Thursday afternoon</b>	<b>Sports Coach</b> <b>Teacher leading</b>

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.

### **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.

### **School Uniform / Hairstyles**

Thank you, parents, for your support with our school uniform policy at St Philip's Catholic Primary School. However, please note the gentle reminder that you support our policy on appropriate hairstyles for school. 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 ensure that choices of footwear are **NOT COLOURED TRAINERS**, but black shoes or trainers. Please continue to support us this term. Thank you.

You can now order school uniform with the school badge on (if you wish, not compulsory) from myclothing.com. Currently, there is a 10% for a limited period. There are leaflets at the School Office if you wish to collect one.

### **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).**



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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.

**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.** There is an increase in un healthy choices seen in lunch boxes and at break time.

Children are bringing in sweets, large bags of crisps and high calorie drinks and snacks. **Please choose your child's snacks with a careful thought.** We continue to support that you 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.

### **Wrap around Care**

We are delighted to share with you that we are offering wraparound before and afterschool 5 days a week.

### **Introducing Our New Vibrant Wraparound Care Programme at St Philip's School!**

**Are you looking for a fun, safe, and supportive environment for your child before and after school?**

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our **Wraparound Care** program! Designed to provide children with a creative, active, and caring atmosphere outside regular school hours. Our

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programme is all about flexibility and fun, making sure every child has a great time while offering peace of mind to busy parents.

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### 🌟 Programme Highlights: 🌟

#### 🕒 Flexible Hours to Suit Your Needs!

- **Before School Care:** 7:30 am to 8:40 am
- **After School Care:** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- Need extra time? We've got you covered with extended care options!

#### 🎨 Engaging and Fun Activities!

- *Arts & Crafts, Sports, Reading, Homework Help*—there's something for every child!
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### Affordable Pricing:

We want our Wraparound Care to be affordable and accessible to all. Check out our competitive rates:

- **Breakfast Club:**
    - 7:30 am - 8:40 am: **£5.00**
    - 8:00 am - 8:40 am: **£3.00**
  - **After School Care:**
    - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm: **£6.00**
    - 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm: **£9.00**
    - 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: **£10.00**
    - **Late Pickup Fee:** £1 per minute after 6:00 pm!
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### 💡 Tax-Free Childcare & Other Financial Support 💡

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You may be able to save money on Wraparound Care through **Tax-Free Childcare**! Here's how it works:

**Tax-Free Childcare** can help pay for before and after-school care if:

- You are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare
- The childcare provider accepts Tax-Free Childcare payments

#### **How to Check Eligibility?**

- Visit the **Childcare Choices website** to see if you qualify
- Use the **government's childcare calculator** for more details

#### **How Does Tax-Free Childcare Work?**

- You can open an account at any time of the year
- Deposit money whenever needed and use it for childcare
- Withdraw any unused funds at any time

Additionally, you can also use **Universal Credit Childcare** to help pay for Wraparound Care.

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#### **How to Enroll? It's Easy!**

1. **Complete the Registration Form** (Available on our website or school office)
2. **Book your sessions** using the Arbor App
3. **Make Payments** via Arbor for your convenience

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#### **Why Choose Our Wraparound Care?**

- **Convenience:** Designed to meet the needs of busy families.
- **Fun:** We keep kids engaged and entertained with exciting activities.
- **Quality Care:** Our team is fully trained and dedicated to your child's safety and well-being.

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### **Register Today & Secure Your Spot!**

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity! Spaces are limited, and we want to ensure that all families have access to high-quality Wraparound Care. **Book early!**

We look forward to welcoming your child to **St Philip's Wraparound Care**—where care meets creativity, fun, and education! 🌈

### **Contact Details**



**If you have changed your contact details**, you can now update via Arbor. If you are having trouble 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. please ensure that the forms do come back to school!! Thank you

### **Arbor**

A huge thank you to all the parents who have downloaded the APP and logged in and are using Arbor. We would like to share **THAT ALL COMMUNICATION/details for TRIPS, WRAPAROUND and all PAYMENTS WILL NOW BE THROUGH ARBOR.** It is very important that you download ARBOR and use this APP.

If you haven't already downloaded the app. Download it now!!

### **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**

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**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.

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.

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### **Please note!**

### **You can now apply for a Reception School in September 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 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.

### **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 :

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### Dates for your diary

Term Dates	Activity
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Children return back to School
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Parents phonic screening meeting for YEAR 1 PARENTS - 2:15PM
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Bank holiday - school closed
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	School/Parish mass at 9:30am
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	YEAR 6 SATS START
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	School May procession
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Children break up for WHITSUN break School celebrates St Philip Neri feast day - Non -uniform day
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 swimming
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 hygiene talk from school nurses. Healthy eating talk year 3&4 classes.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	First Confession for First Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	First Holy Communion
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Confirmation
w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers assembly Year 6 leavers mass Year 6 Graduation

Please note that class trips will take place in the summer term and details will be shared with you from the class teacher .

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**Term dates for 2025-2026**

	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Half term</b>	<b>Ends</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 1st September 2025	Mon 27th Oct 2025 to Fri 31st Oct 2025	Fri 19th December 2025
<b>Spring Term</b>	Mon 5th January 2026	Mon 16th Feb 2026 to Fri 20th Feb 2026	Fri 27th March 2026
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 13th April 2026	Mon 25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026	Mon 20th July 2026

Wishing you every good wish & God Bless

Mrs C Hinton  
Principal

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