



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Hello!*

Dear parents / carers,

We are half way through the summer term of this academic year. Thank you as always for all of your cooperation with the school during what is still a very challenging time with restrictions and rules placed upon all of us. 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. 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 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 and please 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 symptomatic people. The purpose of Lateral Flow tests is to detect positive cases in people who

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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, 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 HOUESHOLD, 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 in 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 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. 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

There are flexibilities for **THIS TERM ONLY** because of difficulties obtaining correct school uniform during the lockdown especially with footwear.

Children need to wear the normal, full St Philip's school uniform from September 2021 and our uniform suppliers are aware of this. The flexibilities only apply 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 this 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

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

### Summer 2 afterschool clubs

Please see the new afterschool clubs offered for next half term on **SCHOOLCOMMS**.

It is very important that when your child has made a choice of what club they would like to join then you **MUST CONFIRM** your child's name and **MAKE PAYEMENT** at the same time, by doing this it will secure your child's place for the half term. Sadly, if you just book your child on a club without payment your child will not have a secure place.





**First Holy Communion**

The children who are preparing for the sacrament of First Holy communion are preparing well for receiving their sacrament. At the moment with COVID restrictions there are still restrictions in place with preparation and for the day. Please note that currently it is immediate family bubble that will be able to attend. The dates are as below;

- Year 3 – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June @ 12:00pm at St Philip's Church
- Year 4 - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June @ 9:30am at St Philip's Church

**Confirmation**

Year 5 and year 6 children are preparing well for the time in their lives to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Please note that currently it is immediate family bubble that will be able to attend. The dates are as below;

- Bishop David Evans visiting the Confirmandi Children @ 1pm Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July Reconciliation service for Confirmandi children at 1:00pm
- Confirmation 7:00pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July with Bishop David Evans .



**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. The playground opens at **8:40am**. If your child arrives to school after the registers close they will receive a late mark. Please 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.

**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.

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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**We need you !**

Would you like to become a member of our local governor body and become a school governor? We have vacancies on our governing body for parent governors and if this is something that you would like to commit to we would love to hear from you. The role is to continue to continue to support the Catholic life of the school along with supporting standards and outcomes. If you are interested, please pop in and see me and I will be happy to chat with 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.

**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/).

Summer term 2 important dates	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Children return to school
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Children break up for the summer.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Teacher Training Day

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Have a lovely half term break.

*Mrs C Hinton*

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