



**ST PHILIP'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Hello!*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we come to the end of the first part of a short Spring half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and dedication to St Philip's over this new year.

### **Catholic school pupil profile**

During next half term we will be focusing on as a school on how to be **Faith-filled and Hopeful**. Our children will try to live by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in themselves and others.



### **Pope's February prayer intention: 'For people who are seriously ill'**

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of February 2024, and invites us to join with the Holy Father in praying for '**The Terminally ill**'

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

### **Good news!**

We congratulate Mrs Anslow on the birth of her beautiful baby son. Mrs Anslow is on maternity leave and both are doing well. Miss Reaney is the acting Vice - Principal.

### **Curriculum News**

#### **What's been going on in school recently?**

In addition to all the fantastic learning in our classrooms, here are a few of the highlights from the last few weeks...

St Philip's  
Catholic Primary School  
Messenger Road,  
Smethwick, B66 3DU

Tel: 0121 558 1643  
[www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.st-philips.sandwell.sch.uk)  
Principal: Mrs Carmel Hinton

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### Eco Club

Making photo frames using natural materials and recycled materials . Well done Eco Team!

### Young Voices Concert

Well done and congratulations to our children who took part in the amazing concert in Birmingham joining lots of other schools to perform in a huge concert . Thank you to Mrs Eaton and Mr Padaton who dedicated their time to making this wonderful experience a memorable one for our children.

### Mission team and Mini-Vinnies

Are actively planning their lenten charities and will share with us what their focuses will be.

### Afterschool clubs

Children who have participated in afterschool clubs have enjoyed been part of the clubs taking part in Indoor Athletics, Reading, Circus Skills, Games, Archery and Arts & Crafts. Well done children!

### Off-site Visits

Children have participated in extra curricular sporting activities and have participated in a number of tournaments. Well done Children! We are very proud of you all.

### Pyramid Concert

Well done and congratulations to all our year 5 pupils who took part in our MAC Pyramid Concert this week. The children have worked really hard to perform with all the other children from the MAC Schools of The Emmaus MAC . Well done year 5! you were amazing.

### 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**, **Miss Reaney** and Safeguarding Officers are

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**Mrs Hill, Mrs Davidson- Pope 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.

Safeguarding our children

We had the pleasure of MBE PC Hughie Treasurer in school to talk to parents about how we can keep our children safe , social media , gang related crimes , how the police support our community and how we keep our community safe. Thank you so much parents for attending this workshop ! we had a full house and we hope that you found this session useful.

Online safety

Online safety is very important as we as families have a number of different forms of technology in our homes .

Please check your children's devices and source filtering and monitoring links to support the safety of your children. Please look out for the Wake Up Wednesday handouts that are emailed to you weekly that supports you how to keep your families safe on technology.

Safeguarding workshops

Year 6 this half term have had a number of external agencies in school to lead on workshops. DECCA, HORIZON, DV TEAMS and POLICE were working with the children on safety online, drugs and medication dangers, county lines and gangs and other key subjects on how to keep safe.

Uniform, PE Kits and Healthy lifestyles.

Thank you parents for supporting our uniform policy and sending your child/ren into school so smart. Please can I share, 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. Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

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.

Year group	Day of the week	Activity
Reception	Wednesday afternoon	Teacher leading
Year 1	Monday morning	Sports coach



Year 2	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 3	Monday morning	Sports coach
Year 4	Monday afternoon	Sports coach
Year 5	Monday morning	Swimming
Year 6	Monday afternoon	Sports coach

A reminder that for the duration of the spring 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.

#### **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.

#### **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. 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



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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.



**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.

**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, please contact the **school office on 0121 558 1643** and leave a message or speak to Mrs Slater. **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 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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### **Reading at home**

Reading is a very important tool and life skill. We would like to share how important it is to read with your child at home. I know and understand that home life can be very busy, but we do encourage daily reading with your child to help improve their confidence with fluency and comprehension. In the new year we will be sending some top tips to support you and your family with reading at home. For further information, please look at our school website with some tips.

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

We have nursery places available for January 2024. 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

Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

The banner features the school logo, a shield with 'SP', and three circular images showing children in a nursery setting.

### **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 .

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**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/)

**Dates for your diary**

Dates for Diary	
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Children break up for half term
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	MAC Training Day
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School open - children return to school
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Children Break up for Easter
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School open - children return to school
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	School open - children return to school
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Children Break up for Half Term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	School open - children return to school
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Children Break Up for Summer
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Staff Training Day - School Closed

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